SATURDAY
December 24, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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IPL 2023

Major winners at the mini-auction

Curran and Green fetched record prices while Stokes matched Chris Morris' previous all-time high in Kochi on Friday

SPORT » PAGE 19

(Figures in ₹)

Total money spent by teams **167 cr.**

Cameron Green
MUMBAI INDIANS
17.50 cr.
Having lost Curran, MI won the battle for the Aussie against Delhi Capitals

Sam Curran
PUNJAB KINGS
18.50 cr.
Punjab pipped Mumbai Indians to make the most expensive buy in IPL

Ben Stokes
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
16.25 cr.
CSK beat Lucknow Super Giants to land the English allrounder

Nicholas Pooran
LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
16 cr.
Lucknow and Delhi fought hard for the West Indian

Mayank Agarwal was the most expensive Indian buy in Friday's auction with Sunrisers Hyderabad spending **8.25 crore** for the opener

EXPANDING MARKETS

It is a great season for Joynagar *moa* makers

NEWS » PAGE 16

STRIKING A BALANCE

Bodo families get a home in reserve forest

Long wait for shelter ends, but new questions emerge

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 13

THE HEROES

Shreyas and Pant put India in driving seat

SPORT » PAGE 19

81 cr. people to get free foodgrains for one year

Those covered under National Food Security Act will benefit; Centre to bear the entire expenses estimated at ₹2 lakh crore; Food Minister terms it 'another remarkable decision of government'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday decided to provide free foodgrains to all 81 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for one year.

The beneficiary families which used to pay ₹1 for coarse cereals, ₹2 for wheat and ₹3 for rice per kilogram will now get 35 kg of foodgrains a month free of cost for the next one year, and others will get five kilogram free each month till December 2023. The Centre has estimated an additional amount of ₹2 lakh crore for the scheme.

Relief basket: At present, NFSA beneficiaries pay ₹2 for wheat and ₹3 for rice per kilogram. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'Pro-poor stand'

Speaking after the Cabinet meeting, Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal said the move was yet another reflection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pro-poor stand. He said that for 28 months, the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) ensured five kg of foodgrains for free for the poor. "This is another remarkable decision of the government. The Prime Minister has taken a decision to provide free foodgrains for 81.35 crore people who are covered under the NFSA," Mr. Goyal said, adding that the entire expenses of the scheme would be borne by the Centre.

Mr. Goyal said though the economic situation after the pandemic was normal, a decision was taken to extend the benefits of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, PMGKAY and the NFSA to more people by merging them. The PMGKAY, launched during the lockdown in April 2020, was scheduled to end on December 31, 2022.

The Centre has been maintaining that the country has adequate storage of foodgrains to meet the welfare schemes. The Opposition has also been urging the Centre to provide foodgrains for needy people considering the economic situation, inflation and unemployment. The ruling BJP had used the schemes as a point for political campaign in the recently held Assembly elections too.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

NEARBY

'Substantial wave' unlikely: Experts

BENGALURU
While there is some panic following a surge of COVID-19 cases in China, experts say India is unlikely to see a fresh "substantial wave" if there are no new variants in China as a result of circulation. » PAGE 4

Demand for hike in reservation

BELAGAVI
Close on the heels of the dominant Panchamasali sub-sect of Lingayat community seeking increase in reservation, the Vokkaliga community also sought a bigger share in quota. » PAGE 6

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGES 10 & 11
A SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE » PAGES 5 & 7

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GETTY IMAGES

Messi
- the immortal genius

One of the greatest ever to play the beautiful game, the Argentine produced his finest act on the biggest stage to lay hands on the coveted trophy

P.K. Ajith Kumar

There was almost a sense of inevitability to it. Lionel Messi had to win the football World Cup.

Like Sachin Tendulkar had to win the cricket World Cup. Like Roger Federer had to win Wimbledon. Like Tiger Woods had to win the Masters. Like Usain Bolt had to win the Olympic 100m gold.

When you are the best, you deserve the best. Messi has arguably been the world's best footballer of his generation. After leading Argentina to its first World Cup in 36 years, he could even stake a claim to being the best ever. Not that he would care.

What he cared about was winning the World Cup. We saw how much it meant to him when he stole that kiss at the Cup before it was presented to Argentina.

The kiss and the happy smile on his face showed why the FIFA World Cup is the planet's greatest show. The Olympic Games may be grander, the intensity of a gripping cricket Test may be unparalleled, but there is nothing quite like the football World Cup.

Little wonder the entire world turns its attention to this incredible tournament once every four years. You just wouldn't want to miss a game at a World Cup. Come to think of it, even the pandemic spared it. But the controversies did not. There have been debates about bribery allegations (to secure the hosting rights), universal human rights, equality rights, homophobia, the ban on alcohol at stadiums... but nobody would argue about the quality of football witnessed in Qatar.

It was a World Cup of surprises. Nothing spices up a tournament like a stunning result (Saudi Arabia 2 Argentina 1; Japan 2 Spain 1; Morocco 2 Belgium 0; Morocco 1 Portugal 0... your pick).

But it was also a World Cup that lived up to expectations in many ways. Kylian Mbappe was tipped to be one of the stars. He certainly was. It was just his misfortune that he was pitted - in the game that mattered most - against possibly the biggest star of all the World Cups.

For all those goals of Mbappe, the Golden Boot, and that hat-trick in the final which single-handedly allowed France to breathe and hope, the Qatar World Cup will always be known as Messi's World Cup. Nobody would grudge him that. Has anybody entertained the world for so long and so enchantingly the way he has?

A parallel

Perhaps not since India won the cricket World Cup in 2011 at home have so many people wanted one team to triumph - primarily for one man - in a major international tournament. Tendulkar had achieved just about everything with a cricket bat. He was even praised by Sir Don Bradman. But, he hadn't won the World Cup. It was his last chance.

> Everyone has an opinion but nobody can doubt he's there. I've said many times, for me, he's the best
>
> **PEP GUARDIOLA**
> Manchester City manager

And India won, beating Sri Lanka in the final, that too on Tendulkar's home ground in Mumbai, to regain the World Cup after a gap of 28 years. The great man himself made only 18, but he was the tournament's second highest scorer and had two hundreds.

After the final, one got the first glimpse of Virat Kohli's commendable communication skills. "He has carried the burden of the nation for 21 years, it was time we carried him," he said of the Indian players carrying Tendulkar on their shoulders during the victory lap.

Fans all over

Messi's burden has been no less. Argentina's population may be less than four per cent of India's, but football is a far more global sport than cricket. And Messi has fans all over the world. In our time, only the other Argentine great, Diego Maradona, has perhaps been loved as much.

It was, of course, Maradona who last took the World Cup home to Argentina, in 1986. Just as that Argentine team was built around him, the one in Qatar was more about Messi.

Maradona, however, was only 25 when he landed in Mexico for the World Cup as Argentina's captain. He would go on to play in two more. For Messi, this was the last chance.

He had come very close in 2014. He took Argentina all the way to the final, which was won by Germany through a goal scored by Mario Gotze in extra time. Messi was named the tournament's best player.

Messi had all those league titles, the Ballon d'Or prizes, the Golden Shoe and Golden Ball awards, Copa America and all those mesmerising goals too, but he didn't have the cup that mattered most in football. That was why he decided to come back after announcing his retirement from international football in 2016.

He took that decision after the disappointment of losing the Copa America final to Chile that year; he had missed a penalty in the shootout. He also hadn't won any significant tournament with Argentina even at that time (his first Copa America triumph came only last year).

A couple of months after he stunned the world, Messi reversed his decision, much to the relief of Argentina and the rest of the universe. But it wasn't a big surprise, really. You don't retire at 29.

Two years later, Messi led Argentina at the World Cup in Russia. But he was in for another disappointment as Argentina lost to France 3-4 in the round of 16. Who would have thought that the two teams would produce another high-scoring thriller four years later and that too in the title clash?

Best football game ever

The Qatar finale has been described by many as the greatest World Cup final ever. Some, including those who have played at the World Cup, have called it the best football game ever. That may be debatable, but in our living memory, we may struggle to think of another final like the one we were fortunate to watch on December 18.

Messi had to score in the final. He did, twice in fact. He had also scored in Argentina's 3-0 victory in the semifinal against Croatia. But it was the way he set up the team's third goal in that game — for Julian Alvarez — that showed his genius.

He was proving, for the umpteenth time, that he was no ordinary mortal. It may be safe to say that the world may not see another player like him.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	19	6,820	17
2	Rafael Nadal	36	6,020	14
3	Casper Ruud	23	5,820	23
4	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	5,550	23
5	Novak Djokovic	35	4,820	14
6	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	4,195	26
7	Daniil Medvedev	26	4,065	21
8	Andrey Rublev	25	3,930	23
9	Taylor Fritz	25	3,355	22
10	Hubert Hurkacz	25	2,905	21
11	Holger Rune	19	2,888	27
12	Alexander Zverev	25	2,700	18
13	Pablo Carreno Busta	31	2,495	24
14	Cameron Norrie	27	2,445	23
15	Jannik Sinner	21	2,410	18

Top Indians ▶

Sasikumar Mukund
Rank 341 ▲ 1 spot

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 347 ▲ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	21	11,085	17
2	Ons Jabeur	28	5,055	18
3	Jessica Pegula	28	4,691	18
4	Caroline Garcia	29	4,375	22
5	Aryna Sabalenka	24	3,925	21
6	Maria Sakkari	27	3,871	22
7	Coco Gauff	18	3,646	19
8	Daria Kasatkina	25	3,435	23
9	Veronika Kudermetova	25	2,795	20
10	Simona Halep	31	2,661	15
11	Madison Keys	27	2,417	20
12	Belinda Bencic	25	2,365	19
13	Paula Badosa	25	2,363	21
14	Danielle Collins	29	2,287	13
15	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,215	24

Top Indians ▶

Karman Thandi
Rank 264 ▼ No change

Ankita Raina
Rank 300 ▼ No change

English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	14	12	1	1	33	11	22	37
2	Man. City	14	10	2	2	40	14	26	32
3	Newcastle	15	8	6	1	29	11	18	30
4	Tottenham	15	9	2	4	31	21	10	29
5	Man. United	14	8	2	4	20	20	0	26
6	Liverpool	14	6	4	4	28	17	11	22
7	Brighton	14	6	3	5	23	19	4	21
8	Chelsea	14	6	3	5	17	17	0	21
9	Fulham	15	5	4	6	24	26	-2	19
10	Brentford	15	4	7	4	23	25	-2	19
11	Crystal Palace	14	5	4	5	15	18	-3	19
12	Aston Villa	15	5	3	7	16	22	-6	18
13	Leicester City	15	5	2	8	25	25	0	17
14	Bournemouth	15	4	4	7	18	32	-14	16
15	Leeds United	14	4	3	7	22	26	-4	15
16	West Ham	15	4	2	9	12	17	-5	14
17	Everton	15	3	5	7	11	17	-6	14
18	Nottingham	15	3	4	8	11	30	-19	13
19	Southampton	15	3	3	9	13	27	-14	12
20	Wolves	15	2	4	9	8	24	-16	10

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	15	13	2	0	37	12	25	41
2	AC Milan	15	10	3	2	29	15	14	33
3	Juventus	15	9	4	2	24	7	17	31
4	Lazio	15	9	3	3	26	11	15	30
5	Inter Milan	15	10	0	5	34	22	12	30
6	Atalanta	15	8	3	4	22	15	7	27
7	Roma	15	8	3	4	18	14	4	27
8	Udinese	15	6	6	3	24	17	7	24
9	Torino	15	6	3	6	16	17	-1	21
10	Fiorentina	15	5	4	6	18	20	-2	19
11	Bologna	15	5	4	6	20	25	-5	19
12	Salernitana	15	4	5	6	19	24	-5	17
13	Empoli	15	4	5	6	12	19	-7	17
14	Monza	15	5	1	9	16	22	-6	16
15	Sassuolo	15	4	4	7	15	22	-7	16
16	Lecce	15	3	6	6	14	17	-3	15
17	Spezia	15	3	4	8	14	26	-12	13
18	Cremonese	15	0	7	8	11	26	-15	7
19	Sampdoria	15	1	3	11	6	27	-21	6
20	Verona	15	1	2	12	12	29	-17	5

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	14	12	1	1	33	5	28	37
2	Real Madrid	14	11	2	1	33	14	19	35
3	Real Sociedad	14	8	2	4	19	17	2	26
4	Athletic Bilbao	14	7	3	4	24	14	10	24
5	Atletico Madrid	14	7	3	4	21	14	7	24
6	Real Betis	14	7	3	4	17	12	5	24
7	Osasuna	14	7	2	5	16	14	2	23
8	Rayo Vallecano	14	6	4	4	20	16	4	22
9	Villarreal	14	6	3	5	15	10	5	21
10	Valencia	14	5	4	5	22	15	7	19
11	Real Mallorca	14	5	4	5	13	13	0	19
12	Real Valladolid	14	5	2	7	13	21	-8	17
13	Girona	14	4	4	6	20	22	-2	16
14	Almeria	14	5	1	8	16	22	-6	16
15	Getafe	14	3	5	6	12	20	-8	14
16	Espanyol	14	2	6	6	16	22	-6	12
17	Celta Vigo	14	3	3	8	14	26	-12	12
18	Sevilla	14	2	5	7	13	22	-9	11
19	Cadiz	14	2	5	7	9	26	-17	11
20	Elche	14	0	4	10	10	31	-21	4

German Bundesliga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	15	10	4	1	49	13	36	34
2	SC Freiburg	15	9	3	3	25	17	8	30
3	RB Leipzig	15	8	4	3	30	21	9	28
4	Eintracht	15	8	3	4	32	24	8	27
5	Union Berlin	15	8	3	4	24	20	4	27
6	Dortmund	15	8	1	6	25	21	4	25
7	Wolfsburg	15	6	5	4	24	20	4	23
8	M'gladbach	15	6	4	5	28	24	4	22
9	Werder	15	6	3	6	25	27	-2	21
10	Mainz	15	5	4	6	19	24	-5	19
11	Hoffenheim	15	5	3	7	22	22	0	18
12	Leverkusen	15	5	3	7	25	26	-1	18
13	Cologne	15	4	5	6	21	29	-8	17
14	FC Augsburg	15	4	3	8	18	26	-8	15
15	Hertha Berlin	15	3	5	7	19	22	-3	14
16	Stuttgart	15	3	5	7	18	27	-9	14
17	Bochum	15	4	1	10	14	36	-22	13
18	Schalke	15	2	3	10	13	32	-19	9

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Marnus Labuschagne	936	937
2	Babar Azam	875	879
3	Steve Smith	870	947
4	Travis Head	826	826
5	Joe Root	826	923
6	Rishabh Pant	794	801
7	Kane Williamson	786	919
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	748	782
9	Rohit Sharma	739	813
10	Usman Khawaja	719	779

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	880	914
2	James Anderson	835	903
3	Kagiso Rabada	824	902
4	Jasprit Bumrah	820	835
5	Ravichandran Ashwin	819	904
6	Ollie Robinson	805	805
7	Shaheen Afridi	803	836
8	Kyle Jamieson	788	836
9	Mitchell Starc	765	806
10	Neil Wagner	747	859

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	890	898
2	Imam-ul-Haq	779	815
3	Rassie van der Dussen	766	796
4	Quinton de Kock	759	813
5	David Warner	747	880
6	Steve Smith	719	752
7	Jonny Bairstow	710	796
8	Virat Kohli	707	911
9	Rohit Sharma	705	885
10	Kane Williamson	700	799

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	752	775
2	Josh Hazlewood	727	733
3	Mitchell Starc	665	783
4	Matt Henry	663	691
5	Shaheen Afridi	661	688
6	Rashid Khan	659	806
7	Adam Zampa	655	655
8	Shaikb Al Hasan	652	717
9	Mustaafizur Rahman	638	695
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	637	712

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Suryakumar Yadav	890	895
2	Mohammad Rizwan	836	875
3	Devon Conway	788	831
4	Babar Azam	778	896
5	Aiden Markram	748	796
6	Dawid Malan	719	915
7	Glenn Phillips	699	703
8	Rilee Rossouw	693	693
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Pathum Nissanka	673	698

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Wanindu Hasaranga	704	797
2	Rashid Khan	698	816
3	Adil Rashid	692	746
4	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
5	Sam Curran	688	688
6	Tabraiz Shamsi	681	821
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	677	745
9	Anrich Nortje	659	695
10	Maheesh Theekshana	655	680

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J BG-BGE

Aviation sector soars high after two-year turbulence, traffic back to pre-COVID level

During Deepavali, KIA saw 5.2 lakh domestic passenger movements in six days; international passenger traffic was around 70,000 travellers

REWIND 2022

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The glitzy T2 of Kempegowda International Airport. K. MURALI KUMAR

The year 2022 started on a bleak note for the aviation sector. The outbreak of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 meant there would be no immediate resumption of international flights, which were to commence on December 15, 2021. With Omicron not posing a major threat, the Ministry of Civil Aviation opened up the international airspace on March 27.

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), which is the third busiest in the country after Delhi and Mumbai, added several new routes and reconnected to some old routes which were suspended following the COVID-19 outbreak.

Australian carrier Qantas began four weekly flights to Sydney from September 14, and United Airlines announced it would begin daily flights to San Francisco in the last quarter of this year.

New routes, which were launched a few months before the outbreak of the pandemic, were also reconnected, which are Addis Ababa (by Ethiopian Airlines), Amsterdam (by KLM), and Tokyo Narita (by Japan Airlines). Air India also resumed its non-stop flight connecting Bengaluru to San Francisco.

The much awaited first phase of Terminal 2 at KIA was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 11.

Located on the north-eastern side of Terminal 1 and designed by New York-based architectural firm SOM, the 255,661 square metre Terminal 2, is a dedication to Bengaluru.

Terminal 2 is designed as a tribute to the Garden city of Bengaluru and the passenger experience is meant to be a walk in the garden.

Passengers will travel through 10,000 plus sq.m. of green walls, hanging gardens and outdoor gardens and these gardens are made in India using indigenous technology.

Digi Yatra

DigiYatra App was successfully rolled out at KIA. DigiYatra is a contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports, based on the use of single token face biometrics for verification of passengers. For the first phase rollout of the DigiYatra Central Ecosystem, KIA was one of the two selected airports in India.

Pre-COVID traffic level

According to BIAL, during the week of Deepavali, the airport witnessed over 5.2 lakh domestic passenger movements in a span of six days. The international passenger traffic was recorded around 70,000 travellers.

However, in December, air traffic recovered to pre-COVID level with the airport handling about one lakh passengers a day.

Traffic constable assaulted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A gang of five people beat up a traffic constable after he reprimanded them for creating a ruckus on the road in an inebriated state in Anekal on Thursday night.

Constable Ranganath was returning from duty when he noticed the gang led by local goon Kishore and his associates drinking on the road after parking their bikes haphazardly.

Mr. Ranganath snapped at them for disrupting traffic movement. Enraged by this, the gang followed him and attacked near a eucalyptus grove near Dinnur. He managed to escape and alerted the control room for backup. The police have been instructed to track down the accused and arrest them, said M. Chandrashekhar, IGP.

#THtalksBengaluru: Live chat with M.A. Saleem today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. A. Saleem

From vehicles violating one-ways to parking in no-parking zones, Bengaluru's traffic problems have risen as rapidly as the city has grown. On Saturday, the man tasked with resolving these issues – M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner, Traffic – will answer your questions as he participates in #THtalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. You can send in your questions to us via mail (letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in) or on our Twitter handle (@THBengaluru) right away, apart from participating in the live chat on Saturday. Visit:

https://tinyurl.com/Live-with-MA-Saleem

CCB unearths drug racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The narcotics wing of the CCB on Friday arrested a Nigerian national and recovered 250 gm of MDMA powder worth ₹25 lakh.

The accused identified as Agbu Chike Anthony was arrested while he was waiting to deliver the drugs to his clients in Electronics City. Inquiries revealed that the accused had come to city four years ago and started peddling drugs. He would source the drugs from his contact in Goa and sell it for a price ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 per gram.

GETTY IMAGES

Atlas Lions' roar shakes up the world

The African and Arab world found a uniting force in Morocco which made a historic run to the semifinals, shocking the big guns and exceeding expectations

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

Before its beginning, the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar had made the headlines for many reasons. Now that the tournament is done and dusted, one country that has risen from the ashes is Morocco.

Atlas Lions became the first African country to qualify for the semifinals and, on its way, beat Spain (2010 World champion) and Portugal (2016 Euro champion).

Cristiano Ronaldo – perhaps one of the best to ever play the sport and someone who has 819 career goals to his name - left the pitch in tears as millions roared from the streets of Marrakesh to Souq Waqif in Doha.

Tough group

Morocco had come into the World Cup, drawn in a group with the runner-up and third-placed team from the 2018 World Cup - Croatia and Belgium respectively.

It began its campaign with a goalless draw against the Croats before shocking Belgium. Captain Romain Saiss opened the scoring in the 73rd minute before Zakaria Aboukhlal sealed the contest in the second half of injury time.

After that, it went on to win every match until the semifinal, starting with a victory over Canada, and a penalty-shootout win over Spain in the round of 16, thanks to two heroic saves by Yassine Bounou and an apropos panenka by Achraf Hakimi.

Against Portugal, Youssef En-Nesyri, the Sevilla forward who had no LaLiga goals this season, scored his second goal of the tournament, almost emulating Ronaldo's famous header against Sampdoria as the former watched from the bench.

However, France stopped its dream run when an injury-hit Morocco – without Saiss and Noussair Mazraoui – finished second best in the battle for a spot in the final. Nevertheless, Morocco's journey came as a breath of fresh air.

> You have the small team and the big team but when you are the small team you have to believe
>
> **REGRAGUI**

Redemption for Regragui, Ziyech

Morocco's head coach Vahid Halilhodzic, who had guided the team to Qatar 2022, was fired in August due to a disagreement with the country's football federation, especially about the return of winger Hakim Ziyech, who was dropped after he was 'unwilling' to play in a friendly game.

Walid Regragui replaced Halilhodzic in September but the coach - who had guided Wydad Casablanca to the league and CAF Champions League titles - was labelled the 'avocado head' because of the boots he was about to fill and the reputation Halilhodzic had in Moroccan football.

Born in France, Regragui had decided to play for Atlas Lions all his life. He promptly brought back Ziyech – a player who was later proved instrumental in the team's success in Qatar - into the side.

Ziyech, who had announced his retirement following a rift with the former head coach, led the counter-attacks on the right flank, scored a goal and was involved in an assist.

Regragui and Ziyech are now icons in Morocco, members of the army that bore the torch of African football and kept the flame burning until the semifinals – a first for the continent. There's no doubt that redemption was complete, for both.

Mother's Love: The magic potion

The Wyndham Doha West Bay hotel, the base for the Morocco team, looked atypical of what a hotel would look like when players stay.

Regragui, along with the Royal Moroccan Football Federation president Fouzi Lekjaa, ensured that the family members chosen by all the squad members - including the support staff - were entitled to an all-inclusive trip to Qatar.

The coach, himself, took his mother to Qatar and she watched her son make history.

"I lived my life in Paris, but it was the first time that I attended a tournament with Walid participating, as a player or a coach," Regragui's mother told the Moroccan TV station Arryadia.

Another doting mother was pleased in the stands as Achraf Hakimi - the Spain-born full-back – plied his trade, sealing a victory for his team with a decisive penalty, ironically against the country of his birth.

"My mother cleaned houses, and my father was a street vendor. We come from a modest family that struggled to earn a living. Today I fight every day for them. They sacrificed themselves for me," he had once told Bundesliga.com.

Hakimi, being hugged and kissed by his mother, became one of the most endearing moments and images of Qatar 2022.

The Arab Spring and African convergence

Africa did not have a dedicated qualifying slot in the FIFA World Cup until 1970. That, too, came after the rebellion led by Ohene Djan – Ghana's FA president, under whom the Black Stars boycotted the 1966 edition.

Over half a century later, Morocco did the unthinkable: defeating European powerhouses and its former colonisers - Spain and Portugal.

> My mother cleaned houses, and my father was a street vendor. We come from a modest family that struggled to earn a living. Today I fight every day for them. They sacrificed themselves for me
>
> **ACHRAF HAKIMI**
> Spain-born Morocco full-back

> We're talking about European teams, South American teams, and I hope in the future we'll be seeing more African teams. Why not an African World Cup champion in the future?
>
> **WALID REGRAGUI**

"You have the small team and the big team, but when you are the small team, you have to believe," Regragui said after beating Portugal.

Reigniting the belief

The Atlas Lions have reignited the belief of national pride in Africans and players (with African roots) are choosing to play for countries from the continent, knowing that there is a chance to succeed on the global stage.

Hakimi – one of the most prolific full-backs in the world at the moment – chose to represent Morocco and not Spain, where he was born and raised. And he led his country all the way to the last four.

At the 2022 World Cup, 137 players of the 831 played for a country where they were not born. In the Moroccan squad, 14 of the 26 players were born outside the country - from Hakimi and the France-born Saiss to the Netherlands-born Ziyech – but still chose to play for the African side.

The latest edition of the global football gala was the most successful for African outfits. Morocco became the first African nation this century to win its group, Cameroon earned the distinction of being the first African side to beat Brazil at the World Cup and Tunisia shocked France, the eventual finalist.

This year was also the first World Cup when all five African nations had coaches from their own countries.

Morocco, beyond winning hearts in every nook and corner of the world, also made ripples in the geopolitical department, waving the Palestinian flag after victories.

Africa and the Arab World have found a uniting force, football, embodied in a red flag with a green star and cheers of *Dima Maghreb!* (Morocco forever) among millions.

GAME THEORY

Route to success

Tactical discipline and directness in open play mattered more in Qatar 2022. Data show that teams with lower possession were more successful in the tournament. Open play dominated the path to goal while free kick-related goals were few and far between

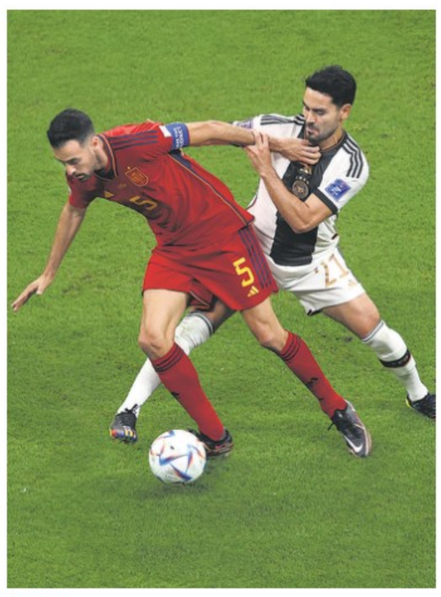

Table 1: Teams with the highest possession were not guaranteed of success in their matches. Argentina had a fairly high possession overall, but they were still only sixth among all teams. Runner-up France was placed 15th while semifinalists Croatia and Morocco were placed 9th and a lowly 27th respectively. An analysis by The Athletic showed that teams with less possession (below 50%) scored more points (1.45) per game than those with high possession (1.35). This reversed a trend observed in the previous three World Cups where teams with high possession were more successful

S.NO	Team	Possession (%)	No of matches played
1	**Spain**	**75.8**	**4**
2	England	62.8	5
3	Portugal	60.4	5
4	Denmark	60	3
5	Germany	59.3	3
6	Argentina	57.4	7
7	Belgium	57	3
8	Brazil	56.2	5
9	Croatia	54.3	7
10	Mexico	54	3
11	Ecuador	53.3	3
12	Netherlands	53	5
13	United States	53	4
14	Canada	52	3
15	France	51.3	7
	...		
27	Morocco	39	7

Table 2: Most goals scored in the Qatar 2022 were from open play (69%), which was the highest in the last four World Cups. Direct free kicks (2 goals) allowed for just 1% of the total goals scored

Type of goals scored	Total %
Open Play	69%
Penalties	10%
Corners	8%
Indirect Free-kicks	6%
Counter Attacks	6%
Direct Free-kicks	1%

PICTURE THIS

MARCELO ENDELLI/GETTY IMAGES

Sea of humanity

The city of Buenos Aires teemed with people and came to a standstill on Sunday after Argentina prevailed over France in a thrilling final of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The South American team squandered the lead twice before winning on penalties in one of the most memorable finals of the competition.

It was the moment the whole of Argentina had been waiting with bated breath for more than three decades.

For a country battling many issues domestically, from high inflation to economic woes, the World Cup victory was a rallying cry for national unity.

Passionate fans of *La Albiceleste* thronged the historic Obelisco de Buenos Aires monument, painting that part of town in the iconic blue and white colours of Argentina's jersey.

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‘Substantial wave’ unlikely if there are no new variants in China, say experts

Proactive planning based on evidence from enhanced surveillance and genomic sequencing is needed, they say; C.N. Manjunath says as there is already hybrid immunity in the community in India, we will have to wait and watch on how the situation will evolve in the next two or three months

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

People travelling between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu at Attibele check post. Virologist Gagandeep Kang says India is doing fine and will not require travel restrictions as of now. FILE PHOTO

While there is some panic following a surge of COVID-19 cases in China, experts say India continues to show a sustained decreasing trajectory of cases in the last few months. It is unlikely to see a fresh “substantial wave” if there are no new variants in China as a result of ongoing circulation, they feel. However, experts caution that opportunities for mutation is higher when the virus circulation is high and there is a need to strengthen surveillance.

“There can be a wave only when a new variant emerges which India has not seen before,” said Giridhar R. Babu, Head of Lifecourse Epidemiology at the Public Health Foundation of India in Bengaluru, and member of the State’s COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). “However, proactive planning based on evidence from enhanced surveillance and genomic sequencing is needed,” he added.

Dr. Babu said waves due to Omicron were relatively mild in countries that witnessed earlier waves, like India. In contrast, China did not have waves after the first one.

In a series of tweets, virologist Gagandeep Kang on Friday said India is doing fine and will not require travel restrictions as of now. “The variants now circulating in China have been in the rest of the world for months. The behaviour of the virus is not any different from expected. In India as well, we already have XBB and BF.7 (the 2 being hyped as new monsters). They are, like all Omicron sub-variants, very good at infecting people because they escape the immune response that prevents infection, but are not causing more severe disease than Delta.”

‘No need to panic’

C.N. Manjunath, member of the State’s Clinical Experts Committee, said as there is already hybrid immunity in the community in India, we will have to wait and watch on how the situation will evolve in the next two or three months. “Being alert is fine but there is no need to panic and take aggressive measures as of now. The situation can be reviewed once in 10 days,” he said.

“Even if there is a fresh surge, there should not be any problem as the disease is well understood and management strategy is streamlined unlike in the first and second waves,” he asserted.

Need for caution

TAC chairman M.K. Sudarshan said although the local situation is very good, it is fertile for circulation of the virus. “Even if there is a surge, we are unlikely to see a higher mortality. But, with huge international arrivals expected and in the light of year end and festive celebrations, we need to be extra cautious,” he said. “It is advisable for people, especially the elderly and those with comorbidities, to get the booster shot, if they have not taken it yet. The BF.7 variant is known to be highly transmissible and a fresh surge may be more dangerous for this population,” he added.

INBRIEF

State has highest number of top scorers in CLAT-2023

Eight students from Karnataka, the highest for any State, have emerged as top scorers in Common Law Admission Test (CLAT-2023) results for undergraduate and postgraduate streams declared by the Consortium of National Law Universities on Friday.

Kshitika Tyagi

Two candidates, one each from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, secured 100 percentile and emerged as all India toppers. One candidate from Karnataka secured a percentile of 99.97, two secured 99.96 and one each secured a percentile of 99.95, 99.94, 99.93 and 99.92 in CLAT UG from Karnataka.

Kshitika Tyagi of Bengaluru got an All India Rank (AIR) of 12 with 106.75 score and a percentile of 99.97 in CLAT-2023 UG. Speaking to *The Hindu,* she said she started preparing for the exam and found the subject very interesting. “I want to join the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru,” she said.

Another topper from Karnataka, Ayesha Khan, AIR 17 with 105.75 score and 99.96 percentile, said her dream had come true. “From a very young age, I always wanted to be a lawyer, and I will be one now,” she said.

The CLAT-2023 was conducted at 127 centres in 23 States and two Union Territories. A total of 94.87% of the candidates who enrolled appeared for the examination, of which 56% are females 44% are males and 2 are transgenders.

International conference conducted at RIT

Ramaiah Institute of Technology (RIT), supported by IEEE Bangalore section (Technical Co-sponsors), held the 4th international conference on “Circuits, Control, Communication and Computing I 4C 2022”.

According to a release from RIT, speaking after inaugurating the conference, chief guest Prof. Navakanta Bhat, Dean, Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc., termed the conference as a confluence of academia, industry, and IEEE, and stressed that the theme 4C defined the current technology landscape in the world.

Prof. Bhat spoke about the advancement of technology and emphasised on the importance of the 4Cs in other domains also such as manufacturing, automation in manufacturing, and how factory automation can happen by bringing the 4Cs together. He urged the young students who attended the conference to develop expertise through curriculum and keep an open mind and have a child-like curiosity to for the rest of their life to contribute to the society.

Ravi G., senior director, delivery, Cyient, Bengaluru, who was the guest of honor at the conference, expressed happiness on the growth of the Institute and new programmes being added in the Institute.

Dr. M.R. Jayaram, Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation (GEF), M.R. Seetharam, Vice-Chairman, GEF Director, RIT, B. Ramaprasad, Chief Executive GEF (Engineering and General Science), and others were present.

Karnataka seeks additional vaccine stocks from Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has urged the Centre to provide additional stocks of vaccine to Karnataka as there can be an increased demand for the booster shot in the current situation, said Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar.

Addressing presspersons after participating in a videoconference of Health Ministers of all States conducted by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday, Dr. Sudhakar said Karnataka now has a stock of around 10 lakh doses. “As we have decided to conduct special vaccination camps to increase the precaution dose coverage from the existing 22% to 50% by January, the current vaccine stock may not be sufficient,” he said.

Shortage in Bengaluru

Meanwhile, there is a shortage of Covishield vaccine in BBMP health facilities. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, who admitted there is a shortage, said the available vaccine stock would expire by January end.

“Over 90% of people had taken Covishield in the first and second doses. We are submitting a proposal to the State government to procure Covishield vaccine soon and increase the booster dose availability,” he said.

Drill on December 27

Following the Union Health Ministry’s direction, the State will conduct a dry run of COVID-19 infrastructure in all government hospitals on December 27.

“This is to ensure that all infrastructure we had installed during earlier waves of COVID-19 including oxygen plants and oxygen generators are ready to use,” he said.

BBMP deploys marshals to create awareness on wearing masks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The recent spike in COVID-19 cases in China and other parts of the world has prompted the city’s civic body to take up precautionary measures to ensure COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and robust health infrastructure to handle any eventuality.

The State government on Thursday reintroduced mandatory wearing of mask in closed spaces. Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, “Marshalls have started urging people to wear masks and follow social distancing in crowded areas such as markets and bus stops.” The advisory directs event organisers to ensure wearing of mask in places like pubs, bars, and restaurants, cinemas, buses, and trains, including metros, shopping malls, offices, etc. “This should be followed strictly, particularly by elderly, and those with comorbidities. People have been advised to celebrate Christmas and New Year outdoors,” he said.

Mr. Giri Nath held meetings with Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association’s, BWSSB, Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation and other agencies on Thursday.

“BWSSB has been directed to take sewage samples which can be tested for COVID-19 in all the wards, while PHANA will coordinate regarding the availability of beds, ICU and oxygen beds and other infrastructure. KSMSCL will coordinate to keep the stock of crucial drugs in COVID-19 treatment protocol. Meeting will be held with other stakeholders on Friday,” Mr. Giri Nath said.

BBMP has also been directed to ramp up testing in the city. The Chief Commissioner clarified that there is no proposal to ban festival celebrations as of now and the BBMP will follow only State government guidelines.

Random testing at KIA from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The random post-arrival COVID-19 tests for international passengers at the KIA will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Airport officials said a meeting with Health Department was held on Friday and necessary arrangements have been made at the airport for the tests.

The passengers who will be subjected to the tests will be identified by the concerned airlines and preferably from different countries. After giving the samples, the passengers would be allowed to leave the airport. Officials said the testing process will take less than two minutes, and passengers would not have to pay for the tests.

Mandatory mask rule is back

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the State government issued an advisory on COVID-19 appropriate behaviour, public transport authorities have taken up awareness campaigns on them. Namma Metro has decided to continue insisting on masks.

BMTC has issued an circular to its employees urging them to wear masks and follow all guidelines. “We have asked bus drivers and conductors to request passengers to wear masks,” BMTC officials said.

KSRTC has started announcements in bus stations to create awareness. “We have not made anything compulsory,” a senior KSRTC official said.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, DEC. 24		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:00
RISE	07:29	SET 19:05
SUNDAY, DEC. 25		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:01
RISE	08:33	SET 20:12
MONDAY, DEC. 26		
RISE	06:39	SET 18:01
RISE	09:31	SET 21:18

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	30	16
Bengaluru	28	14

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry.Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfotable but humid. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

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PACL land scam: Police file chargesheet against 12

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru district police investigating the Pearls Agrotech Corporation Ltd. (PACL) land scam filed a chargesheet against 12 persons while at least two kingpins, including a suspended police Inspector, are on the run.

The chargesheeted accused including the prime accused in the racket Manjunath, 53, and Shivaputra Tanga, 51, sub-registrar of Anekal sub-division were arrested and presently out on bail, while the kingpin suspended inspector Kishore Kumar is yet to be arrested. The police said that Kishore had got a stay order, which was vacated recently, and efforts are on to track him down, M. Chandrashekhar, Inspector General of Police (Central Range), who is supervising the investigations, said.

PACL, a ponzi scam, defrauded investors allegedly of more than ₹50,000 crore across India. The scam surfaced in 2016. The CBI, ED, and SEBI probed the case separately and traced the shell companies of the PACL and seized the land.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **MR. CHANDAN. J. A,** S/o. Mr. Aswathaiah, residing at No.297, Sirigandha, 19th Main, MC Layout, near Udaya School, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040, has lost the original Absolute Sale Deed dated 05/04/2013, registered in the office of Senior Sub Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore vide document bearing No.YAN-1-00189-2013-14, Book-1, stored in CD No.YAND474, with respect to Property bearing Residential **Site No.49,** Katha No.91/2/49 and Residential **Site No.50,** Katha No.91/2/50, situated at **Sathnur Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** and Absolute Sale Deed dated 05/12/2013, registered in the office of Senior Sub Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore vide document bearing No.YAN-1-08472-2013-14, Book-1, stored in CD No.YAND521, with respect to Property bearing Residential **Site No.52,** Katha No.120/2/52(old Katha No.120/121), situated at Byappanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and lodged the Police Compliant on 21/12/2022, vide Loss Report No.421685/2022, if any one finds the said documents they may kindly handover the same to undersigned.

Murthy. J
M.J. Law Associates, Advocates,
No.2, First Floor, Chickkanna Complex, Kattigenahalli Bus Stop, Bangalore-560064.
Mob No. : 9901900508.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into agreements to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners: **M/s.HAYATH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED,** having its registered office at: No.17, 1st Main Road, Jayamahal, Bangalore-560046, represented by its Directors: **Mr.HAYATHULLA KHAN, Mr.EHTHASHAMALIKHAN & Mrs.RASHEEDA KHANUM and Mr.EHTHASHAMALIKHAN** S/o Sri.Hayathulla Khan, residing at No.10/17, No.204 H.M.Astoria Apartments, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the entire First floor premises bearing Municipal No.64/1, PID No.76-19-64/1, having 1944.25 Sq.ft., of Super Built-up Area and the entire Second floor premises bearing Municipal No.64/2, PID No.76-19-64/2, having 1944.25 Sq.ft., of Super Built-up Area of the building and the Terrace Floor premises bearing Municipal No.64/4, PID No.76-19-64/4 having Super Built-up Area of 922 Sq.ft., of the building known as “PRISM LIGHTS”, built in the property bearing Municipal No.64 (old No.39), measuring East to West 43' and North to South 68'9”, coupled with proportionate undivided share of right, title and interest in land, along with 50% of car parking area of 875 Sq.ft in the Basement facing Richmond Road, situated at Shoolay Circle, Richmond Road, Bangalore and the entire building property is bounded on:

East by : Arab Lane “A” Street
West by : Private property bearing No.65
North by : Richmond Road
South by: Passage of private property bearing No.65

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has entered into an Agreement of Sale for purchase the Property, which is more fully described in the Schedule below from its Owners Mr.Syed Zabiullah, son of Mr.Syed Kaleemulla, Mr.Mohammed Ajmal Choudhury, son of Mr.Abdul Rahim Choudhury and his wife Mrs.Nazima Choudhury, all residing at No.500, 8th Cross,1st Stage, 3rd Block, HBR Layout, Kalyananagar, BENGALURU-560043.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim whatsoever in, upon or to the Schedule Property or to any portion thereof, by way of any easement or under agreements, arrangements, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, partition, bequest, possession, mortgage, exchange or under any deed/instrument easement or however otherwise, may submit his/her/its/their objection/s claim/s, in writing to me at the under mentioned address, through Registered Post, along with the supporting documentary evidence, within FIFTEEN (15) days of the issuance of this notice, failing which, my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that Residential Vacant Site No.GH-08, BDA Katha No.BDA/RO/N/GH-08/2019-20, formed by the Bangalore Development Authority in Survey No.28/2, of Geddalahalli Village, situated at 16th Block, Arkavathi Layout, Bengaluru, measuring East to West:18.00 Meters and North to South:12.00 Meters, in all measuring 216.00 Square Meters and bounded as follows:

On the East by : Private Property;
West by : Road;
North by : Site bearing No.GH.07;
South by : Private Property;

Bengaluru.
Date : 24.12.2022
(K.S.MADANA GOPAL) Advocate,
No.1, Ground Floor,
ROYAL PARK, No.34, Park Road,
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MARIYA Dafney D/o Soundar Rajan.A, R/a #14, 5th Cross, Nagamma Nagar, Gowthamapuram, Ulsoor, Bangalore-560008 have changed my name to Gayathri.S vide affidavit dated 29.11.2022 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

I, No.10490129X Rank HAV, S Vedachalam, R/a Sengam Poondi (Vill), Perana Mallur (Po), Cheyyar (TK), Tiruvannamalai (Dist), Tamilnadu-604503 have changed my Son's name from Yukesh to V.Yogesh vide affidavit dt: 17.12.2022 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, B'lore.

I, Ahi Krishna Satya Harish Kakaraparthy S/o Markandeyulu Kakaraparthy, residing at 1096, 1st Floor, 26th B Main, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560069, changed the name of minor Son Srikrishna Jayavanth Kakaraparthy aged 4 years and he shall hereafter be known as Jayavanth Kakaraparthy for all purposes in future.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJULA, R/o No.6, Ranoji Rao Lane, Kalasipalyam, Bangalore-560002, have changed my name from Manjula to Manjula Shivapuram Raghavendra vide affidavit dated 22-12-2022 before Notary G. Hemalatha, Bangalore.

TENDERS

Capt — **KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING**
Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2365678, 2365415
e TENDER NOTICE
No. CAPT/1932/2022-M2(MTL) 23.12.2022
Tenders are invited from reputed paper dealers/suppliers/mills for the supply of following paper items.
1.170 gsm art paper glossy DC:375 ream
2. 220 gsm art card glossy DC:130 ream
(e-Tender ID: 2022_CAPT_536554_3)
For detailed information log to the website: **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.captkerala.com**
Sd/-
MD, C-apt

BOOKS / PERIODICALS

THAMIZH PUTTHAGA THIRUVIZHA
Date : 25.12. 2022 to 01.01.2023
Everyday : 11.00 AM to 8.00 PM
தமிழ்ப் புத்தகத் திருவிழா 2022 பொங்கலோ
at Thiruvalluvar Arangam
Bangalore Tamil Sangam,
Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, Bengaluru-560042
For details: 94837 55974

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Senior living communities: Enrich the golden years of life

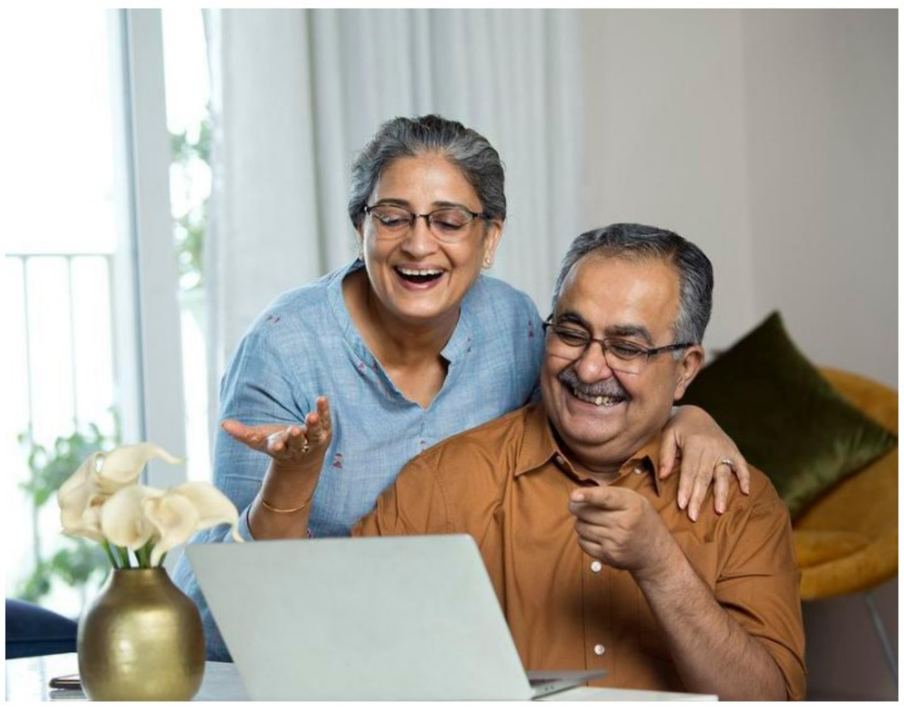
As per reports, millions of elderly Indians live alone and are in dire need of proper homecare. Until a few years back, people after retirement or upon reaching old age, would find comfort, fulfillment of the basic needs and emotional support from their own family and the younger generation and/ or their children would usually take care of their needs and fill the golden days of their life with all the happiness in the world.

But with times changing and in this age of cut-throat competition, most of the young people are left with no choice but to move out on their own and live in a different city in search of a livelihood, and with the emergence of nuclear families, the old folks are mostly left all alone .

Gone are those days when a big, fat Indian family would live under the same roof and share every happiness, sorrow and nostalgia of their life.

While they ask, "where is the time now?", attributing their exhaustion, negligence and lack of opportunity to spend quality time with family to the intense busyness of their work life, a new concept has emerged to keep the smiles wide and bright on the faces of those who have made our life happy with all they have all these years.

Boom in senior citizen living has come across as a blessing for many such old, abandoned elderly persons who have once again found the beauty of living with dignity. Above all, they love their independence. Restoring their faith in life and boosting their confidence level which they may have lost while living an isolated life for years, these projects aim at providing the elderly with all the basic life needs including medical, psychological and spiritual support and also care for the specially-abled persons.



Most of these housing units for the elderly are built with facilities including holistic medical care, elderly-friendly features and assistive technology that would enhance their quality of life. Apart from basic lodging, gardens, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, prayer room, community dining hall, TV room, library, yoga and fitness facilities, safety and security services, basic medical and emergency facilities, caregiving facilities etc give the elderly an overall rewarding lifestyle. Most of these secure housing projects for senior citizens have close proximity to nearby markets and are well-connected to the city so that the elderly lead a fulfilling life and feel their sense of purpose in life while they enjoy a harmonious relationship with the other residents in the community and also have access to friends and relatives outside. The secured, serene and healthy environment of these senior living communities has become the dream houses of many such elderly citizens of our country who had long been searching for a safe and homelike place. While clean air and pollution free water enhances the quality of life and they nurture their hobbies and relish their every moment of independence, the free-flowing conversations and the perfect companionship of the fellow residents have filled hearts with joys and made faces shine brighter with the widest of grins.

Columbia Pacific Communities

When we look back to the evolution of the senior living industry in India, 2021 will be known as the year when the industry reached its "tipping point".

An amalgamation of real estate, hospitality and health care, communities designed with seniors in mind are the most complete and customised solution to the present and evolving needs of senior citizens.

Our operating communities now have a waiting list of customers wishing to buy homes on resale or on rent. The resale and rental pricing in these senior living communities demand a 10 – 15% premium on similarly located residential projects.

Increased interest in the solution is also reflected in the 4x increase of visits to our website and a reduction in the average age of our customer at newly launched projects. Customers between the age of 50 – 60 are now actively seeking this solution for both themselves and their parents. Senior citizens residing on their own or in mixed family condominiums and their children residing away from their parents are both increasingly aware of senior living communities being the desired and preferred solution.

Due to the rapidly changing cultural relationship between parents and children, India offers a huge opportunity for senior care/senior living.

During the past 24 months of the pandemic, the lived experience of seniors in communities designed for them stood in stark contrast with others in the same cohort who were living on their own or as part of mixed family condominiums, who dealt with uncertainty and lack of support in the face of an adverse situation.

This has taken the interest in and demand for homes in senior living communities to unprecedented levels. The real estate industry is also seeing the senior living sector as a new vertical that helps them diversify their portfolio, add a distinct and non-competing demographic to the residential sector while also serving an important need in society.

We will see greater collaboration between credible real estate developers and service providers to bring this solution to seniors across Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities in the country.

Mohit Nirula, CEO

KITES Senior Care

Elderly population is growing in India. Simultaneously we are seeing a clear shift from joint family to nuclear family system in India necessitating elders to live by themselves. About 40% of the country's senior population have some form of disability and about 27% of this population group has multi-morbidities. These clearly indicate the need for a robust healthcare system in the society especially outside the hospital environment.

The 'Out of hospital' care for the elderly is an emerging field (part of geriatric medicine). This comprise of care at home (place of residence) and care at specialised centers. While home based care has been existing for a while, this has been professionalised in the last decade in India. However care delivered at specialised care facilities is new and an emerging field in India. KITES Senior Care, the geriatric care brand from Bengaluru has pioneered this field by delivering quality & comprehensive 'Out of Hospital' care for the elderly both at their specialised care facilities & at the home of elders both short term and long term. They also partner with few senior living brands and retirement homes in providing medical supervision to seniors living there.

KITES Senior Care provides (i) Post surgery & post hospitalisation rehabilitative care otherwise called as transitional care (ii) Palliative care & hospice and (iii) Dementia & Alzheimer's care. As part of the care program KITES offers comprehensive medical care services at their centers which include KSC Six-star assessment process, detailed care plan, 24x7 medical supervision, nursing care, therapies including physiotherapy & speech therapy, ayurveda, nutritious food, counselling & emergency management. These care services are provided at the residence of the elderly as well.

Being first of its kind comprehensive Geriatric care focussed brand, elders get a comprehensive care through KITES under one roof covering all services (children coordinate from remote) & most importantly they work with their primary surgeons and physicians in managing care which improves outcomes. Since its inception in 2016, KITES has cared for over 4,000 elderly and is now expanding not only in Bengaluru but to Hyderabad & Chennai as well with their new care centers supported by home based care therein.

With the initial successes & encouragement, they have now commenced their expansion plans.

They are establishing a larger dementia care center in north Bengaluru and a care center in south Bengaluru which are underway. In addition, they have acquired a large rehab unit at Banjara Hills Hyderabad which will go live in the end of Jan 2023 and the Chennai project is under construction proposed go live in March 2023.

INBRIEF

Street vendors' Bill passed

The Legislative Assembly on Friday passed the Karnataka Stamp (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2022, to give effect to the proposal made in the State Budget 2022-23 to remit the stamp duty on loan agreements executed by the street vendors under the scheme PM SVANidhi (PM Street Vendors' Atmanirbhar Nidhi).

There is no expenditure involved in the legislative measure. The Bill said the government in the public interest would remit the stamp duty payable on loan agreements executed by the street vendors under the scheme to PM SVANidhi.

State mulling over karate training for girl students

A short-term course on karate for self-defence of girl children is likely to be introduced in all educational institutions in Karnataka from the level of PUC from the next academic year.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the government would take an appropriate decision in this regard soon while participating in a karate demonstration on December 23 in front of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi by girls who have undergone 'Obavva self-defence training' provided by the Departments of Social Welfare, Backward Classes and Karnataka Educational Residential Schools Association in residential schools being run by the Karnataka Government.

As Home Minister, he had decided that self-defence training should be imparted to girls in government-run residential schools under the Nirbhaya Scheme.

M.K. Pranesh of BJP elected Deputy Chairman of Legislative Council

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

BJP MLC M.K. Pranesh was elected as Deputy Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council on Friday.

When the process of election of the Deputy Chairman was taken up through headcount in the Legislative Council in Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, 39 members voted in favour of the BJP candidate while 26 voted for Aravind Kumar Arali of the Congress. The JD(S), which had not fielded any candidate, remained neutral.

Chairman of the Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti, who was elected to the post unopposed on December 21, declared Mr. Pranesh elected as his Deputy. A two-time MLC, Mr. Pranesh has been elected to the Legislative Council from local authorities' constituency of Chikkamagaluru district. He had been elected Deputy Chairman earlier in January 2021.

The BJP commands a majority in the 75-member Legislative Council with 39 members while the Congress has 26 members and JD(S) has 8. The lone independent MLC Lakhan Jarkiholi was absent.

Vokkaliga legislators demand hike in reservation for community

Vokkaligas claim they account for 16% of the population of Karnataka, but are eligible for less than 4% reservation

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Close on the heels of the dominant Panchamasali sub-sect of Lingayat community organising a rally demanding increase in reservation, Ministers and legislators belonging to another dominant community – Vokkaliga – petitioned Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday seeking bigger share in quota.

A delegation of Vokkaliga legislators, including prominent Ministers, demanded that the reservation for 3A group, in which the Vokkaligas have been placed, should be increased from 4% to 12%.

The delegation argued that the present quota level for the community is meagre when compared with its population. The entire reservation allocated for the community is 4% though the Vokkaligas account for an estimated 16% of the population of Karnataka.

The delegation expressed concern that Kunchitigas, Bunts and Reddies, who are sub-sects of the Vokkaliga community, were not included in the reservation list of the Centre. They urged the Chief Minister to take appropriate measures in this regard.

The Vokkaliga delegation giving a memorandum to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on increasing reservation, in Belagavi on Friday. P.K. BADIGER

The Chief Minister said the Karnataka Permanent Backward Classes Commission had been instructed to submit a report at the earliest to help take a decision in this regard.

The Chief Minister pointed out that Adichunchanagiri mutt seer Nirmalanandanatha swamiji had already submitted a petition in this regard. The petition had been forwarded to the commission on November 29 for suitable action, he said.

He noted that a report by the commission, set up as per Constitutional norms, is necessary to consider an increase in reservation.

The petition submitted by the legislators' delegation too would be forwarded to the commission, he said.

Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who was part of the delegation, argued that many Vokkaligas were dependent on farming and were losing their land due to urbanisation.

While the 3A group comprise 20% of the total population of Karnataka, Vokkaligas are eligible for only 4% reservation, he said. Health Minister K. Sudhakar contended that when compared to the total population of the Vokkaliga community, the reservation given to them in education and employment is less. "The community is not putting any pressure nor is it asking for unreasonable reservation, but is only requesting a hike in reservation proportionate to its population," he said.

Govt. under fire for 'poor allocation' to Brahmin Development Corporation

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Congress MLC U.B. Venkatesh criticized the BJP government for "poor allocation" of funds to the State Brahmin Development Corporation.

After Minister for Muzrai Shashikala Jolle, in reply to a question in the Legislative Council, said the government had released a total of ₹31.29 crore during the last five years including the ₹25 crore during 2018-19, Mr. Venkatesh expressed his dissatisfaction with the government grants for the Brahmin Development Corporation.

The allocation has been very poor after the ₹25 crore made during the coalition government-headed by H.D. Kumaraswamy, he pointed out. During the BJP regime, ₹3 crore had been released in 2019-20 and ₹3.29 crore had been released in 2021-22, he said.

Delay in making caste census report public questioned in Legislative Council

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The delay in making public the report on the social and economic survey of 2015, popularly called the caste census, was questioned in the Legislative Council on Friday.

BJP MLC K.P. Nanjundi Vishwakarma sought to know from the government the reasons for not disclosing the report on the caste census, which had been conducted by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission in 2015 after spending ₹162 crore.

Signature awaited

Replying to the question, Minister for Social Welfare and Backward Classes Kota Srinivas Poojary said the report of the caste census did not bear the signature of the then Member-Secretary of the State Backward Classes' Commission. As the report cannot become an official record till it was signed by the official concerned, the present commission had sought a direction in this regard from the State government. He said the matter was under the examination of the State government.

Not satisfied

However, Mr. Vishwakarma said he was not satisfied with the Minister's response as he had received a similar reply from the government when he had raised the matter earlier. An assurance had been given by the government in the previous sessions that the report will be made public after the appointment of the Chairman of the Commission.

He sought to know if the reluctance to make the report public was to avert the possibility of Backward Classes communities bringing pressure on the government for reservation on basis of their population as per the census.

CAG flags diversion of funds, delay in execution of works

Nagesh Prabhu
BELAGAVI

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has said that four city corporations in Karnataka – Ballari, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Vijayapura – diverted funds amounting to ₹108.75 crore (40% of total expenditure of ₹269.28 crore) under the Mukhyamantrigala (CM's) Nagorathana Yojane towards other works.

The civic bodies did not give wide publicity to tenders and awarded works without inviting fresh tenders in cases of insufficient participation of bidders. The corporations of Ballari and Mysuru awarded six (19%) out of 31 packages to ineligible contractors. The the civic corporations of Ballari, Mysuru, and Tumakuru awarded contracts in 18 (42%) out of 43 packages after the expiry of bid validity, according to the report of the CAG on performance audit of Mukhyamantrigala Nagorathana Yojane (Phase-III) for city corporations, for the year ending March 2021.

The report was tabled in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Costs and expenditures

The cost of 70% of works in the four corporations was less than the mandated minimum cost of ₹50 lakh. "The civic corporations failed to create tangible assets as the cost of majority of the works was less than the prescribed limit of ₹50 lakh," according to the report. Incorrect technical evaluation by the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA) led to project management consultant works aggregating to ₹14.63 crore going to ineligible consultants.

Eleven (69%) out of 16 works in seven packages in Ballari, Mysuru and Tumakuru were not executed due to non-availability of work sites. Further, there were delays ranging from 75 to 547 days in completion of eight works out of 43 packages in Ballari, Mysuru and Tumakuru. Delays were mainly due to non-completion of underground draining works, not shifting of electric poles, before entrusting works.

Expenditure of ₹68.95 lakh incurred in the four cities was irregular, which was attributable to adoption of incorrect rates and payment for earthwork excavation at higher rates.

Minimum allocation

None of the four CCs attained the minimum allocation of ₹15 crore stipulated in respect of water supply and underground drainage works. Out of four cities, only Vijayapura executed traffic management works.

Karnataka Water and Sanitation Pooled Fund Trust (KWSPFT) incurred avoidable interest liability of ₹5.09 crore due to non-recouping of loan diverted from Nagarothana Phase II and III, which was availed at a higher interest rate.

There was additional expenditure of ₹4.87 crore due to availing loans at higher interest rate than the quoted interest rate, non-exercising the option of availing loans available at lower interest rates, and delay in repayment of loan as per the schedule prescribed in the agreement.

MLAs seek end to parking of old vehicles in govt. offices

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Members cutting across party affiliations demanded that the Government either scrap or relocate old and rusted vehicles parked permanently in front of several government offices and police stations.

Tabling a call attention notice in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, BJP member B. Harshavardhan expressed concern over many old four-wheelers dumped in front of government offices. He urged the government to device a mechanism for either scraping them or relocating them to a common area.

Endorsing his views, Speaker Vishveshwar Hegde Kageri expressed concern that the government is unnecessarily wasting its resources by allowing the old vehicles to rust. "At least, the government could scrap them and earn some revenue. Also, it helps in clearing the space that is being used for parking such vehicles," he said.

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:2:Tender-83:2022-23 Dated:- 21.12.2022
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through e-Procurement Portal as per standard tender documents rules.
Name of work: Two cover System: Head of Account 5054-03-337-0-17-154 SH Improvements: 1) Improvements to N.H.A-48 road to Bhovi Mata road in Chitradurga Taluk Chitradurga District (WI.157349)/2nd call. Estimate Cost: Rs. 900.00 Lakhs. **Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements:** 2) Improvements to NH-13 NG halli Village to Kanivehalli in Selected Reaches in Holalkere Taluk(Proposed Ramagiri Kanivehalli Road from Km 0.00 to 19.00 in Selected Reaches) (WI.162801). Estimate Cost: Rs. 200.00 Lakhs.
Sl. No. 1Tender dates are as mentioned below: 1) Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: 06-01-2023 Time: 17.30. 2) Last Date & time for receipt of tenders: 07-01-2023 Time: 16.00. 3) Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: 09-01-2023 Time: 16.15. 4) Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: 11-01-2023 Time: 11.00. **Sl. No. 2Tender dates are as mentioned below:** 1) Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: 30-12-2022 Time: 17.30. 2) Last Date & time for receipt of tenders: 31-12-2022 Time: 16.00. 3) Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: 02-01-2023 Time: 16.15. 4) Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: 04-01-2023 Time: 11.00. Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.
RO No. 797: DIPR/CTA/MCA/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
(Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION KALABURAGI-585105
Phone No: 08472-278634 Email:eerwssglb14@gmail.com
No:EE/RDW&S/Dvn/Tech/2022-23/2579 Dated : 22-12-2022
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two cover)
The Executive Engineer Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, Kalaburagi on behalf of Honorable Governor, Karnataka here by invites separate Technical & Financial bid tender for drinking water works from eligible civil contractor detailed as below
The Tender Document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **http://eporc.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through E-procurment system only 1) Name of work: **Aland Taluka -01 (Indent No 51031)**, 2) Head of A/C: KKRDB, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class- III & Above, 4) Tender Amount: **Min 64,83,941/- Max 64,83,941/-**, 5) Date of Commencement of downloading of Bidding document: **18-12-2022**, 6) Cost of tender form and EMD: As per E-portal, 7) Last Date to submit bids on e-portal: **26-12-2022 4.00pm**, 8) Opening of Techincal Bid : 27-12-2022 4.01pm, 9) Opening of Financial Bid: **29-12-2022 11:00am,** 10) Address for any clarification reg.tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, PRE division 1st floor Kusanoor road Kalaburagi
DIP/Kalaburagi/1009/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Kalaburagi**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

A LEGEND IN HER OWN LIFE TIME

Dr. BHANUMATHI RAMAKRISHNA
SEPT 7th 1925 - DEC 24th 2005
BHARANI and FAMILY
Phone: 044- 2434 5825 / 2365 0971

DEATH

A.C.PONNAPPA (97), Retired Assistant Security Officer, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 21-12-2022. Address: 538, Om Nilaya, Sivaramakaranth Layout, 4th block, Kushal Nagar -571234, Kodagu Dist. ct: 9449824747

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M BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Veteran Telugu actor Kaikala Satyanarayana passes away

Veteran Telugu actor Kaikala Satyanarayana passed away at his Jubilee Hills residence in the early hours of Friday after a brief illness. He was hospitalised in November 2021 following a fall at his home and had recovered. He was 87 and is survived by wife Nageshwaramma, two sons and two daughters. In a career spanning over six decades, Satyanarayana had acted in more than 750 films. Apart from Telugu, he had also acted in a few Tamil, Kannada and Hindi films. The 1977 NTR-starrer *Yamagola* was a turning point in Satyanarayana's career. With his unique style of uttering his name 'Yamunda!!' in *Yamagola* Satyanarayana nailed the character that endeared him to the audience.

In a brief stint in politics, Satyanarayana was elected to Parliament from Machilipatnam in 1996.

High ranges in Kerala remain restive over buffer zone issue

Protest against demarcation turns unruly, resulting in damage to public property; Opposition says draft buffer zone map published by the State government is riddled with errors and inaccuracies

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Expressing anger: Irate residents of Pampa Valley village in Kottayam damaging a Forest Department board during a protest.

The upland areas in Kerala remained on edge on Friday with concerns over the satellite survey for demarcation of buffer zones around protected areas running high, despite the government's efforts to allay fears about dispossession of property and regulation of activities.

Citizens turned out in large numbers in Idukki and Kottayam to submit complaints about the draft buffer zone map published by the government. A tense situation prevailed at Angel Valley, near Erumely, after a protest against buffer zone demarcation turned unruly, resulting in damage to public property. Forest officials filed a complaint about vandalism and threats by protesters.

The Erumely panchayat decided to explore the possibility of impleading itself in the case on the buffer zone issue under the consideration of the Supreme Court.

The Forest Department opened a camp at the Idukki Hydro Electric Project High School at Kulamavu on Friday for citizens to file complaints about the buffer zone map. Help desks were also set up to assist the citizens.

Meanwhile, the Opposition continued to turn the heat on the government on the issue. Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala said the draft buffer zone map published by the government was riddled with errors and inaccuracies.

Mr. Chennithala said the government was bound to suffer a serious setback if it submitted the map in its present form before the top court. He accused the government of fumbling in the dark without carrying out the ground survey. "People will have to suffer for the lapses of the previous government headed by Pinarayi Vijayan. The fate of 2.5 hectares of agricultural land and human habitations, including houses, public buildings and places of worship, is now hanging in the balance," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Cold day to severe cold day conditions likely in many pockets over Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, north Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Bihar, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.8	14.4	Kozhikode	—	32.8	21.0
Ahmedabad	—	27.0	13.8	Kurnool	—	32.3	18.3
Aizawl	—	—	6.5	Lucknow	—	26.0	11.8
Allahabad	—	27.3	10.0	Madurai	—	34.7	20.2
Bengaluru	—	29.2	15.4	Mangaluru	—	32.1	20.0
Bhopal	—	28.9	14.4	Mumbai	—	30.6	19.6
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	14.0	Mysuru	—	30.0	17.4
Chandigarh	—	19.3	8.6	New Delhi	—	20.1	5.3
Chennai	—	30.1	23.2	Patna	—	25.8	10.6
Coimbatore	—	32.7	17.6	Port Blair	—	30.4	26.2
Dehradun	—	22.2	5.4	Puducherry	—	30.0	20.6
Gangtok	—	14.4	7.2	Pune	—	32.7	15.4
Goa	—	32.7	19.3	Raipur	—	31.2	14.2
Guwahati	—	26.7	15.5	Ranchi	—	26.8	11.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	16.0	Shillong	—	15.0	6.7
Hyderabad	—	31.8	14.8	Shimla	—	13.8	3.5
Imphal	—	23.8	6.7	Srinagar	—	8.5	-4.8
Jaipur	—	22.0	13.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.7	22.9
Kochi	—	30.8	23.6	Tiruchi	—	31.6	21.6
Kohima	—	18.8	6.6	Vijayawada	—	29.8	18.2
Kolkata	—	26.7	14.5	Visakhapatnam	—	28.4	21.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	..—	..99	31	 28	50	
Bengaluru	...8	9	72	... 159	...106	
Chennai	.24	..61	47	... 295	...167	
Delhi	.24	..90	56	... 414	...337	
Hyderabad	...5	..42	41	... 257	.....—	
Kolkata	.17	..36	29	... 304	...225	
Lucknow	.15	..63	85	... 267	...211	
Mumbai	.40	193	13	... 386	...229	
Pune	..—	..—	.—	..... —	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	.39	..47	52	... 283	...174	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 450indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nandesari, Gujarat recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Amend rules if condition in the manual on issuing passport to minors needs to be sustained: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that the Central government is required to amend the Passport Rules, 1980, if it wants to sustain the condition imposed in its passport manual stating that parents have to obtain permission from the court, where their plea for divorce is pending, when one of them applies for issuance or renewal of passport of their minor child without the consent the other.

"This court is aware of the fact that manifold circumstances arise before the passport authorities when they are faced with the problem of granting a passport. The manual for smooth functioning is also an accepted norm but it cannot run counter to the Passport Rules, 1980," the court observed while pointing out that this condition in the manual is contrary to the rules for dealing with situation for issuing passports for minors on an application by one of the parents.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while allowing a petition filed by the mother of a minor child. The passport authority in Bengaluru had not issued the passport to her son citing the condition prescribed in the passport manual.

However, the court pointed out that the Rules have prescribed certain norms for issuing a passport to a minor child when the application is made by one of the parents sans consent from other parent during the pendency of their divorce plea.

Also, the condition prescribed in the manual that permission of the court (where the plea for their divorce is pending) is required for issuing passport to their minor child, is contrary to the rules, the court said.

The court directed the passport authority to consider the petitioner's plea for the issuance/renewal of the passport for her minor son within seven days.

KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Sarige sadana: Central Office: Mechanical Department, Kalaburagi-585102

No. KKRTC/CO/YDG/1527/2022-23 Date : 22-12-2022

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Tender details : **Tender No. KKRTC/ME/T-65/2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022,** Refurbishing of old buses On Labour Job Contract Basis at Regional Workshop Yadagiri of Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation, 2) Approximate Tender Value : **Rs. 2,72,00,000/- (Two Crores Seventy two lakhs)**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor/Bidder : As mentioned in the tender documents. 4) Tender form availability : **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from Date:**23.12.2022**, 5) Tender Form Cost and EMD details : As mentioned in the tender documents, 6) Tender submission Last Date and time : Available in online portal: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** till the Date: **21.01.2023, upto 17.00hrs,** 7) Tender Opening date : **30.01.2023 form:12.00 pm onwards.**, 8) Contact details : Chief Mechanical Engineer, Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation, Central office, Mechanical Department, sarige sadana, Kalaburagi:585102 Ph: +91-7760992001, 9) Website details http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in support@eprochelpdesk.com, 10) Helpline numbers 91+8046010000/+91-8068948777.

Sd/- Chief Mechanical Engineer
(Tender inviting Authority), Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/1000/MC&A/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Vijayanagar Division, 3rd Main Road, 1st Floor,
Shasakara Bhavan, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560040

No: EE(VJN)/AE/TEND/20/2022-23 Date: 23-12-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-1 & KW-2)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Approx. Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Improvements to Drains, Culverts at Sanjaynagar, Ganapathinagar, MCT Quarters & Narasimhaiah Colony in Ward No.157, Gali Anjaneya Temple. **(2nd Call) - (Others)**	**20.00**	**50000.00**
2	Improvements to Footpath in Avalahalli in Ward No.164. **(Others)**	**30.00**	**60000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement portal Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 02-01-2023. 2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 12-01-2023. 3)** Financial Bids for Single Cover System will be Opened **on or after 13-01-2023 at 16.30 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer (Vijayanagar).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪ)ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570024. ಇಮೇಲ್: eewmccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ–11/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.12.2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ (ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
		ಸರ್ವಿಸ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್					
1.	ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ)	ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿಎನ್–63/2022–23, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.12.2022	05	230.58	22.12.2022	09.01.2023	10.01.2023
2.		ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿಎನ್–64/2022–23, ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.12.2022	01	350.00	23.12.2022	10.01.2023	11.01.2023

ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸರ್ವೀಸ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗು ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟಿ ಕವರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನ **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. **ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ:** ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ / ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಧೃಡೀಕರಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಡೆಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರಬೇಕು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/809/22-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
(Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION KALABURAGI-585105
Phone No: 08472-278634 Email:eerwssglb14@gmail.com

No:EE/RDW&S/Dvn/Tech/2022-23/2587 Dated : 22-12-2022

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two cover)

The Executive Engineer Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, Kalaburagi on behalf of Honourable Governor, Karnataka here by invites separate Technical & Financial bid tender for drinking water works from eligible civil contractor detailed as below

The Tender Document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **http://eporc.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through E-procurment system only 1) Name of work: **Chincholi taluka-05 (Indent No 48320, 48319, 48318, 48317 & 48979) Kalaburagi Taluka -01(Indent No 49349**, 2) Head of A/C: **JJM**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class- III & Above, 4) Tender Amount: **Min 1,01,00,000/- Max 2,50,00,000/-,** 5) Date of Commencement of downloading of Bidding document: **20-12-2022**, 6) Cost of tender form and EMD : As per E-portal, 7) Pre bid meeting date: **26-12-2022 11.00am**, 8) Last Date to submit bids on e-portal: **28-12-2022 4.00 pm,** 9) Opening of Techincal Bid: **29-12-2022 4.01pm** 10) Opening of Financial Bid: **31-12-2022 11:00am,** 11) Address for any clarification reg.tender : Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, PRE division 1st floor Kusanoor road Kalaburagi

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division, Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/1005/MC&A/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE(W&M)/HSN/EE(O)/DCA/AEE-2/2022-23/4861-65 Dt: 21.12.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL, Transmission (W&M) Circle, Hassan, Hassan District, Karnataka State invites bids on Electronic mode for the following works.

(1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/07 for Replacement of 1x6.3 MVA, 66/11 kV Transformer by 1x12.5MVA, 66/11kV Transformer at 66/11kV Sakaleshpura sub-station in Sakaleshpura Taluk, Hassan District on Total Turnkey basis. **Work_Indent No:** KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT9497/Call-3.

(2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/08 for Providing LILO arrangement to 110kV KONDENALU Sub-station by stringing of 2nd circuit on existing 110kV SC line on DC towers with LYNX Conductor for a distance of about 5.454km along with ONE Number of 110kV TB at 110/11kV Substation KONDENALU, in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District. **Work_Indent No:** KPTCL/2022-23/TL/WORK_INDENT9501/Call-4.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.00 AM on 26.12.2022.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Supertending Engineer (Elec.,)
Tr(Works & Maint) Circle, KPTCL,
Prasarana Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Santhepete,
B.M. Road, Hassan-573201. Ph: 08172-250765

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Under Taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL SBC O&M Division Khanapur.
Tq: Shahapur Dist: Yadgiri Email Id: kbjnleesbc2@gmail.com

NO. KBJNL/SBC/O&M/Divn/Kpur/PB/2021-22/582 Date: 21-12-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDER SYSTEM)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, SBC O&M Division Khanapur. Tq: Shahapur Dist: Yadgir invites short term percentage tenders in two Cover system from the eligible Contractors above for work mentioned in the table below.

The blank tenders can be obtained through www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE DETAILS OF THE WORKS PUT TO E-TENDERING

1) Work details Indent No: 21779/CALL-2 2) Amount Put to tender Amount: Rs.88.66 Lakhs 3) E.M.D amount put to tender Amount: Rs.1,57,000.00 3)The contractor can have access to the electronic document, i.e Tender Schedules, bid documents and other documents in the website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on payment of tender processing fee (non-refundable).From: 23.12.2022 at 11:00AM 4) The last date & time for submission of electronic documents through e-portal: 06.01.2023 upto 17.30 Hrs. 5) Date & time for opening of electronic document first (Technical bid): 09.01.2023 @11.00 Hrs. 6) The electronic document second (financial bid) of pre-qualified contractor will opened on: 16.01.2023@ 11.00 Hrs or After approval of Technical bid. 7) For more information contact details: Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, SBC O&M Division, Khanapur of Shahapur Taluka, Yadgir Dist. 8) Website: http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

NOTE: - Further information may be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours or from http:www.eprocurement.Karnataka.gov.in.

SD/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, SBC O&M Division,
Khanapur.

DIP/Yadagiri/376/K.S.M.C&A 2022-23

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 562110 E-mail: itstaff_ulb_devanahalli@yahoo.co.in
website: www.devanahallitown.mre.gov.in ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–27682221

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ದೇಪು/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಟೆಂಡರ್–03/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–12–2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ (ಎಸ್‌ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಎಂ) ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವರು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: htttps://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರಮ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ	ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ
1.	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT131805/Call-3	98.00	As Per e-Proc	As Per e-Proc	120 ದಿನಗಳು
2.	DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT141526	10.86	As Per e-Proc	As Per e-Proc	04 ತಿಂಗಳು

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Make room for ecological architecture

Despite the looming crisis, we can collectively follow a few climate considerations and design policies to reduce the energy consumed by buildings. By **Sathya Prakash Varanashi**

GREENSENSE

How many of us are aware of some critical data, pointing at the possibility of human race going extinct?

Post industrial revolution, our only home, the Earth, has become warmer by over 1 degree centigrade; PPM or carbon particles per million has crossed 400; erratic winds, rains, heat and snow have come to stay. Seasons have lost their temporal senses, with depletion of natural resources continuing unabated.

Human actions are causing all these disastrous phenomena, which can be mitigated only by human actions. Construction is among the major human activity at the root of climate change. We may not individually be able to stop the crisis, but can collectively follow a few climate considerations and design policies to reduce the energy consumed in building construction.

Designing for climate: It's a paradox to listen to people appreciating our traditional houses that are cool, strong and long-lasting. Of course, we know the reasons – they were climate friendly, being contextually located to the immediate parameters of light, air, heat, glare, water, humidity, rain, sound, dust and such others. Every one of these impact how we live with nature, with health, happiness and content. There is a myth that designing with climate cannot create attractive, grand or magnificent architecture. It is time to de-mystify the myth.

Efficient construction systems: Despite many advances in technology, popularity of stagnant and conventional construction options is one area where architecture lags behind. Thousands of vernacular and rural typologies have been erased, which were eco-friendly by default. Exciting new ideas have been invented, but the majority builds with mainstream RCC pillars, cement blocks, plastering, chemical painting and the standard concrete roof. Simple changes in the present approach can create miracles.

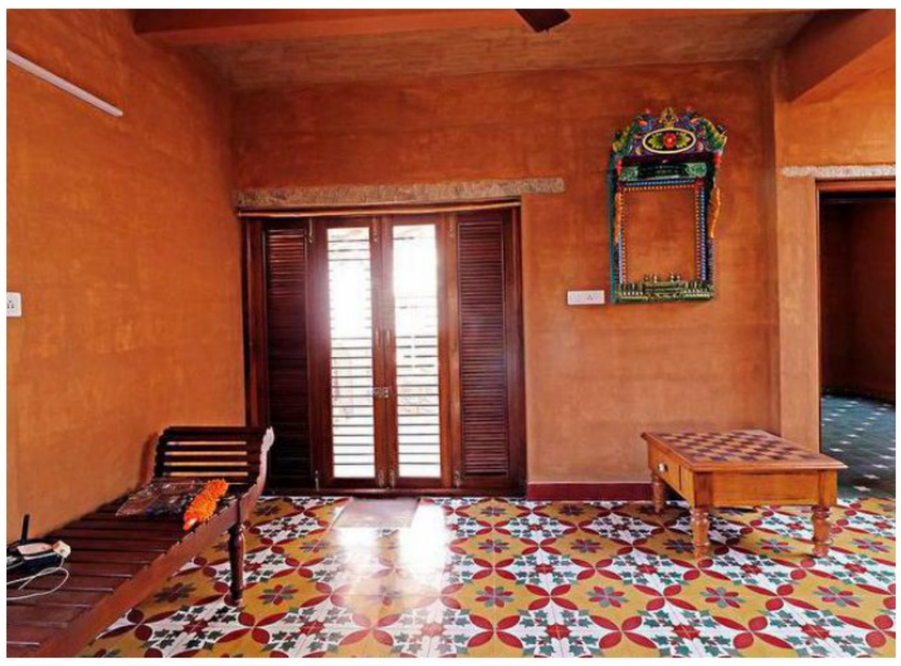
Minimising embodied energy: The sum total of earth resources and energies consumed in the site preparation, material attributes, construction, maintenance and disposal of a building is calculated as the embodied energy of a building. It's a term comparable to carbon footprint.

Needless to say, lower this figure, more eco-friendly is the construction. To that end, calculations may be needed, but even intuitions can help design better.

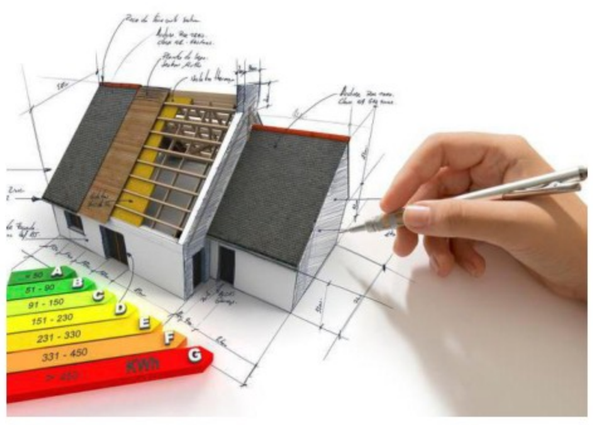
There is a myth that designing with climate cannot create attractive, grand or magnificent architecture. It is time to de-mystify the myth.

Life Cycle Analysis (LCA): LCA is closely connected to embodied energy, the difference being more focus on post-construction rather on pre- and during construction phase calculations. Most decisions in architecture rely upon construction budget and capital expenses, rather on maintenance costs and operational expenses. The real impact buildings make on nature gets usually ignored. Using cheap materials and ineffective construction systems do more harm in the long term.

Minimising air-conditioning: Strange but true, air conditioners are among the villains of nature. A technology invented to refrigerate for material durability, today A.C. has been promoted as a necessity. It saves us from sweating or shivering, but makes mother nature sweat and shiver, called today as climate change. All that an air conditioner does is to throw indoor heat outside, hence our outdoor atmosphere gets warmer. Also count in electricity (produced by non-renewable coal) consumption, technology shifts, machinery obsoleteness and the whole industry revolving around A.C. to realise the terrible impact it does to earth.



Designing buildings has to be in tune with nature.



Build less: Construction industry contributes more than 30% of total greenhouse gases emitted, with unabated activity in all parts of the world, but for a few poorer nations. Developing countries like India are building faster and more than ever in history, promoted by rapid urbanisation, infrastructure development, surplus income, and social image. The result is avoidable quantum of constructions, while we need to build only what is needed.

Though environmental concerns have been around for over half-a-century now in the west, its criticality has been realised only during the last two decades or so. Of course, India is hugely lagging behind both in this awareness and remedial action. A larger part of data, analysis, research and solutions towards sustainable architecture and construction continue to be ignored by all – owners, engineers, designers and builders. We are no way near constructing without destroying, despite using terminologies like eco-friendly designs, net zero building, sustainable architecture, regenerative designs, among others. The clock of extinction is ticking fast, we need to slow it down or even stop it.

The author is an architect working on eco-friendly designs and can be contacted at varanashi@gmail.com

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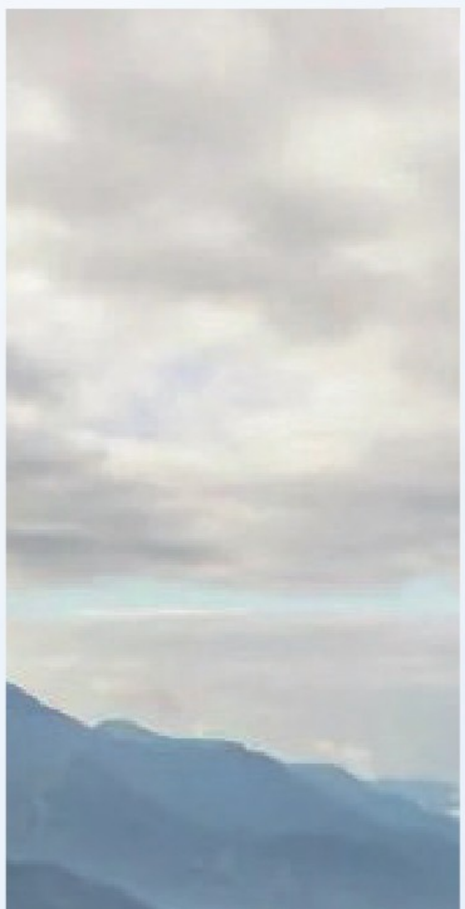

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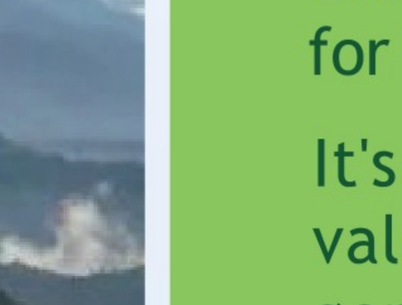

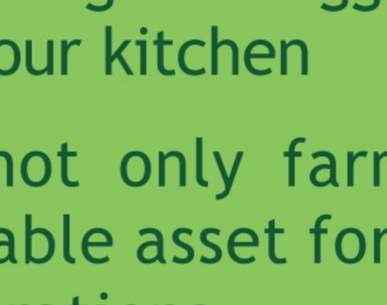

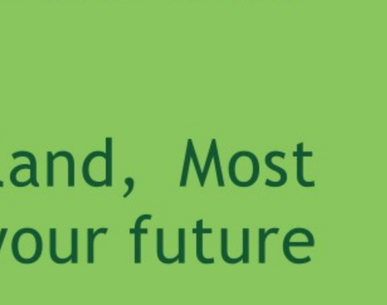

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Fighting cancer

Along with vaccination, screening must be done to detect early signs of HPV

India has taken up the fight against cervical cancer in earnest with the Central government announcing that it will roll out vaccination for girls aged between 9 and 14 years through schools. The decision comes at a critical juncture with a study in The Lancet published this month showing that India accounts for the highest number of cervical cancer cases in Asia, followed by China. More than 58% of all cases of cervical cancer and deaths globally were estimated in Asia with India accounting for 21% of cases and 23% of deaths, followed by China (18% and 17%). Cervical cancer is a preventable and treatable cancer. It is caused by infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV) and there are vaccines which protect against carcinogenic HPV. With more than 6,00,000 women diagnosed with cervical cancer worldwide in 2020, the World Health Organization laid down several guidelines that countries need to follow to eliminate it as a public health problem. According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the WHO has specified that countries must reach and maintain an incidence rate of fewer than 4 new cases of cervical cancer per 1,00,000 women a year. To achieve that goal, it is necessary that 90% of girls will have to be fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15.

To that end, the government's intent to introduce the HPV vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) is a welcome move. India's immunisation network, as was evident during COVID-19, has worked well, and diseases such as polio and maternal and neonatal tetanus have been eliminated. The UIP is one of the largest public health programmes targeting over 2 crore newborns and 2 crore pregnant women annually, and offers free vaccines for at least 12 diseases. To battle cervical cancer, India is expected to roll out the indigenously developed Cervavac vaccine by mid-2023. It has received the Drugs Controller General of India's approval and has been cleared by the National Technical Advisory Group for Immunisation for use in the UIP programme. The vaccination will be provided primarily through schools, but importantly the government has clarified that girls who do not go to school will be reached through community outreach and mobile teams. This is a vital step because studies show that there is a link between cervical cancer incidence and human development index values, with progressively lower rates observed as HDI rises. Together with vaccination, screening programmes must be conducted to detect early signs of the disease to allow time for treatment.

Leave quietly

Bainimarama should accept the results in Fiji, and respectfully leave the office

Fiji, the tiny archipelago nation in the South Pacific that has seen several coups since it got independence from the British in 1970, is facing a new round of power struggle and political instability. The latest crisis broke out after the December 14 general election produced a hung assembly with the ruling Fiji First party of Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama winning 26 seats in the 55-member Parliament, three short of majority. The People's Alliance of former Prime Minister and current opposition leader Sitiveni Rabuka came second with 21 seats. Mr. Bainimarama, who came to power through a coup in 2006 and later refashioned himself as a democratic leader under a new Constitution that was introduced in 2013, has faced criticism of suppressing dissent and cracking down on the opposition. The election was marred by allegations of fraud. But after the results were announced, three opposition parties came together to unseat Mr. Bainimarama and form a coalition government. The People's Alliance and its coalition partner, the National Federation Party (which won five seats), have 26 MPs' support. This left the third opposition bloc, the Social Democratic Liberal Party which won three seats, in a kingmaker's role. The party decided on Tuesday in a close internal vote to support Mr. Rabuka, tilting the balance in favour of the People's Alliance.

Mr. Rabuka, who first came to power through a coup in 1987 and then faced elections, is an experienced politician who built the opposition unity based on their common enmity towards Mr. Bainimarama's rule. Mr. Bainimarama has emerged on the world stage as a major advocate of actions against climate change. His government also saw Fiji deepening its relationship with China, whose footprint in the South Pacific is rapidly expanding. The Fiji First still remains a strong party, but the opposition deal sealed its fate. The Prime Minister has not conceded yet. After the opposition announced the coalition agreement, the government called in the military. Authorities say there were incidents of ethnic violence (between indigenous Fijians and ethnic Indians). Fiji has a history of ethnic clashes, but the opposition say there is no law-and-order problem and that Mr. Bainimarama is trying to cling on to power. Any attempt to sabotage the election results will destabilise the country internally, disrupt its ethnic balance and complicate its foreign policy agenda. Mr. Bainimarama should accept the results, respectfully leave the office and set a strong precedent of peaceful transition of power for the country's political class.

Alleviating the scourge of private healthcare

Soham D. Bhaduri

is a physician, health policy expert, and chief editor of The Indian Practitioner

India ranks poorly on multiple health financing indicators. Its public health expenditure as a percentage of its GDP (1.28%) and share of general government expenditure dedicated to health (4.8%) remain akin to the poorest countries. Per capita health spending growth has not kept pace with rising incomes. Private spending still constitutes nearly 60% of overall expenditure on health.

This is driven by the dominant role of the private health sector. Yet, the discourse on addressing high healthcare costs remains limited to what the government can do to share the personal expenditure burden. It automatically becomes an issue of increasing government spending to reduce personal spending.

Dispersed sector

The private sector in India is inexorably dispersed, with marked inequities between rural and urban areas and widespread market failure. Creating organised networks of providers like health maintenance organisations (HMOs), which can be regulated easily, has been envisioned in recent policy pronouncements. However, unlike in the U.S., where managed care models arose in response to cost pressures, the typical Indian context of income disparities, backwardness, and under-regulation incentivised the private sector to differentiate into a host of organisations of varying sizes and scopes, each serving its own customer base. These often provide care at apparently inexpensive rates but of dubious quality. Such contexts offer few natural incentives for consolidation. Achieving this solely through public health insurance is a mammoth task.

Making private healthcare affordable should receive attention alongside expanding public healthcare

MURALI KUMAR K...

In such a scenario, initiatives that seek to make private healthcare more affordable without affecting care quality assume importance. This is likely to encompass a wide range of policy instruments that alter the operating conditions of the private sector. Moreover, such policies have to be enshrined in our national health policy. This should not be confused with driving public funds into public-private partnerships. Rather, we need overarching policies that drive down private healthcare costs even for the self-paying consumer with little or no government subsidy.

Public health insurance schemes have often been reproached for imposing unreasonable package rates on empanelled private providers with a weak regard for actual costs of care. A good start can be made by incentivising and propagating many business process innovations (BPI) that lie scattered across the healthcare landscape such as the cost-reducing innovations by Aravind Eye Clinic and Narayana Hrudayalaya. Such BPIs are confined to a few philanthropic organisations and find little mainstream policy or research attention. Again, while the healthcare ecosystem does not naturally incentivise such innovations, regulatory and economic policy signals can be facilitative. There is already an emergent drift towards value-based healthcare, which seeks to improve patient outcomes for the money spent. Task shifting in healthcare is an evidence-backed instrument to hold down costs, especially in under-resourced settings. The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021 can be a boost in this direction. Widening the ambit of practice of nurses and allied personnel should be a strong emphasis of health policy, along with concurrent mainstreaming of such practice roles across the private sector.

Healthcare provision in cities bespeaks the stark market failure in healthcare. The booming number of providers in cities has only served to drive prices up, but this is no necessary evil. For instance, some countries like Canada have conceived regional health boards that organise care equitably within regions, exploit economies of scale, and bring down healthcare costs. Such boards should have adequate representation from communities and enough power to determine local policy and resource allocation, impose caps on the maximum number of healthcare providers, and build working networks of care. They can address many health system maladies. Creating affordable and effective private health insurance products is another important option.

Double whammy

The Indian healthcare story has seen a double whammy of regulatory infirmity and unfulfilled economic promises. We cannot go soft on the former even as the latter continues to falter. For instance, many States have their own Clinical Establishments Acts that are stuck short of full implementation. Strong political will and the purging of unnecessary restrictions is needed to allay resistance. The high costs of medical education trigger cost recovery through resource-intensive ways of practice. While multiple steps to reduce entry barriers in medical education have been taken lately, medical education costs have sharply increased over the past decade or so. This warrants policy attention.

While we endeavour to make private healthcare more affordable, caution must be exercised that it doesn't substitute adequate public spending on health. No country in the world has ever achieved universal healthcare through predominantly private means. Affordable private healthcare must only come to supplement strong public healthcare, while in turn having a complementary effect in enhancing the efficiency of government health spending.

How Shakespeare entered Rajaji's mind and stayed

Gopalkrishna Gandhi

is a former administrator, diplomat and Governor

When Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan demitted office as India's head of state in 1967, he returned to his own home, books and Carnatic music in the city he regarded as his own - Madras. Among the numerous people welcoming him back in their midst was Chakravarti Rajagopalachari. One might have expected Rajaji to say something in praise of Radhakrishnan through apt quotations from the Ramayana or the Mahabharata or the *Tirukkural*. But no, he said praise of the man was unnecessary. And the unpredictable in him chose to say so, in his 'Dear Reader' column in the journal *Swarajya*, through William Shakespeare's *King John*, Act 4, Scene 2: To gild refined gold, to paint the lily/ To throw a perfume on the violet/ To smooth the ice, or add another hue/ Unto the rainbow, or with taper-light/ To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to garnish/ Is wasteful and ridiculous excess.

He asked for that issue of *Swarajya* to be taken to the Radhakrishnan home and read out to the great man. But he asked the bearer to first rehearse the passage. "To gild refined gold..." went the trainee, pronouncing 'refined' as it is normally pronounced. "Not so...," Rajaji corrected him. "In poetic declamation pronunciation changes... Say 'refi*ned*' not as in find but as in fed...say 'refined.'" Perfected thus, the poetic message was relayed to its addressee.

Journey with the Bard

Shakespeare and Rajaji went back a long way. We may assume that Rajagopalachari as a student had been introduced to the all-time great poet and playwright by John Guthrie Tait, the Scots professor in Bangalore's Central College, where the young man studied for his matriculation and from where, in 1896, he wrote his B.A. examination. Shakespeare entered his mind scape early to stay there for ever.

We find Rajagopalachari, the lawyer-turned-nationalist, addressing Gandhi in letters by 1920 as "My dearest Master", not a form of address to be expected from a 42-year-old for a 51-year-old. In a letter that he wrote to Gandhi in June 1920, upbraiding his 'Master' for what the follower thought was a grievous error, he wrote "...My dearest Master - allow me to be harsh, I speak with tears in my eyes - you have no right to act thus..." Upon the 'Master' heeding his stinging criticism and advice, the follower sent him a wire: "Words fail me altogether. I hope you have pardoned me." Somewhere in his sub-conscious he may have gleamed the words of the Steward in *All's Well That Ends Well*, Act 3, Scene 4: Write, write, that from the bloody course of war/ My dearest master, your dear son, may hie:/ Bless him at home in peace, whilst I from far/ His name with zealous fervour sanctify: His taken labours bid him me forgive...

The little candlelight of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets kept Rajaji company throughout

In 1921, with the movement for 'non-co-operation' in full swing, Rajaji was jailed, along with the whole of the Congress' leadership and innumerable volunteers. As the key turned to close his cell at Vellore, on December 21, 1921, the sun was setting. Rajaji had with him, apart from a few clothes, a few books - the Bible, the *Kural,* a work on Socrates, the Mahabharata, Robinson Crusoe and a volume of Shakespeare. Also, pitch darkness. Some three days later, a fresh arrival, Mahomed Ghouse, brought a candle and, on Rajaji's fourth night in the cell, gave it to him. "Never did I see a candle give such quiet holy light before," Rajaji wrote in a diary he started to write there, in that first imprisonment of his. It was Christmas eve. It is tempting to imagine that a line from *The Merchant of Venice* glowed in that light cast by a Muslim fellow-prisoner's gift of a candle on Yuletide to his Sri Vaishnavite jail-mate: "How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world." The weary world was with him through the decades that followed, in and out of prison, in and out of public office, in and rarely out of domestic sorrows. The little candlelight of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets kept him company throughout.

A compilation of excerpts

Rajaji's brief tenure as Governor General gave him much to grapple with, but also much to cherish. It brought him the welcome company of a great library in Government House, though without the time needed to read its fabulous holdings. The chance of that privileged position did him another small but, as it turns out, not so small and good turn. It placed in his hands a leather-bound notebook bearing the new tenant's monogram 'CR'. This notebook, coming with finger tabs containing the English alphabet, encouraged him to add a dimension to 'his' Shakespeare. Pasting a rectangular piece of paper on the cover that simply said 'Shakespeare', he started a practice that was to last many years - a compilation in his hand of excerpts from the Bard of Avon, in alphabetic order. A keyword in the excerpt determining the alphabet section selected, he filled its pages with some hundred and more entries over at least two and a half decades. He gave after each entry the name of the play, and the number of the Act and Scene, and sometimes the identity of the speaker – for example, "Just death, kind umpire of men's miseries - Mortimer in *Henry VI (1)*, II, 5."

Rajaji's Shakespeare notebook entries include 'less known' Shakespeare quotations, and some which may strike the lay reader as 'never read before'. They are a chiaroscuro plate of Rajaji's brooding intellect. They mirror his mind.

Some examples:

A: When sapless age and weak unable limbs should bring thy father to his drooping chair - *Henry VI (1)*, IV, 5.

When two authorities are up, neither supreme, how soon confusion may enter 'twixt the gap of both and take the one by the other - *Coriolanus,* III, I.

B: The fox barks not when he would steal the lamb - *Henry VI (2)*, III, 1.

The near in blood the nearer bloody - *Macbeth*, II, 3.

C: When clouds appear, wise men put on their clothes - *Richard III,* II, 3.

D: A staff is quickly found to beat a dog - *Henry VI (2)*, III, 1.

E: O, that men's ears should be to counsel deaf, but not to flattery - *Timon of Athens*, I, 2.

I found the following Shakespeare quotations in Rajaji's notebook chiming with his own deep understanding of human follies, human caprice, human nature:

Smiling pick-thanks and base news-mongers - *Henry IV,* III, 2.

Time is a great-sized monster of ingratitudes - *Troilus and Cressida*, II, 2.

Young blood doth not obey an old decree - *Love's Labours Lost*, IV, 3.

Madness in great ones must not unwatched go - *Hamlet*, III, 1.

A dog is obeyed in office - *King Lear*, IV, 6.

That young start-up - *Much Ado About Nothing,* I, 3.

The following from his 'C' page seems as if it is meant for King Charles III as he awaits his coronation: My crown is in my heart, not on my head/ Not deck'd with diamonds and Indian stones/ Nor to be seen; my crown is called content/ A crown it is that seldom Kings enjoy - *Henry VI (3)*, III, I.

As life ebbed away from the 94-year-old, exactly 50 years ago on Christmas day, he said: "I am happy". On this Christmas eve, Mahomed Ghouse's Christmas-eve gift to him of a candle to beam a light in his pitch-dark cell needs recalling. One may imagine Rajaji lighting that candle with thoughts that would become his Tamil song *Kurai Onrum Illai* (No regrets have I).

The following from his 'D' page in the notebook can close this reflection: They say the tongues of dying men enforce attention like deep harmony - *King Richard II*, II, 1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vacation for courts

It is not right to compare our judiciary, its workload and vacations with the judiciaries of other countries as civil and criminal appeals have been pending in our High Courts for decades ("Should courts close for vacation?" Dec. 23). While judges require vacation time, summer vacation can be curtailed so that it doesn't last for more than three-four weeks. This will enable the delivery of speedy justice.

B.M. Baliga,
Bengaluru

Regular Vacation Benches with a special team of judges and subordinates can be constituted to handle certain civil cases. This will give judges time to rest and also reduce the backlog of cases.

R.V. Baskaran,
Chennai

Debate on border dispute

It is natural that the Opposition will ask for a debate, especially as the Prime Minister claimed that no one intruded into Indian territory even though 20 soldiers were killed in the Galwan Valley by the Chinese military ("Opposition's demand for debate on border row denied", Dec. 23). By excluding the Opposition from debating the border dispute or charting the China policy, the Modi government is denying the country the benefits of political unity in dealing with an external aggressor.

S.S.Paul,
Nadia

Football craze

Kerala's unique obsession with South American football can be traced to the coalescing of communism, Latin American literature and the anti-imperialism of the sport's Latin American heroes ("Following the football World Cup craze in Kerala", December 23). Argentina made a marginal dent in the Malayali consciousness with its 1978 World Cup win. Then Diego Maradona captured the hearts of Malayalis. Another reason for Kerala's deep passion for Latin American football is Rosario. This is where 'Che' Guevera and Messi were born.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

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Villagers talking about their struggle in Gadajuli village in Sonitpur district of Assam. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Once a forest, now a settlement

On November 5, land deeds were ceremonially handed over to 1,301 Bodo families in the Charduar Reserve Forest in Assam's Sonitpur district. **Rahul Karmakar** reports on the new developments and the older ethnic, communal and conservationist fault-lines being deepened

More than 25 years after he erected a thatched shelter, Dinesh Kerketary's dream of building a house is taking concrete shape. The wooden support frames around the plinth beams of his 20-by-30 ft house-to-be were taken off a fortnight after he received a document granting him possession of a patch of "forest land under occupation" in north-central Assam's Sonitpur district.

With the Sopai river flowing behind his 13-bigha plot, 54-year-old Kerketary worked out a safe elevation of his concrete abode in Gadajuli, one of about 270 villages in what used to be a part of the Charduar Reserve Forest. The *phagla* (mad) river had inundated his plot thrice since 2009 when it changed course to flow between the southern edge of his plot and Batashipur, a settlement around a railway station that serves Dhekiajuli town 13 km south.

Kerketary was not among the people who first began occupying land in the mid-1990s by clearing the reserve forest. He moved in from nearby Sarsobari. "I was a landless farmer. I sniffed an opportunity to own my plot, but the fear of eviction never really let me sleep in peace until I received the *patta* (land deed)," he said. He is relieved that the document will enable his son Paniram to get a permanent residence certificate to seek admission to higher education institutes.

Prabhat Brahma of the adjoining Dhimapur village, who is also constructing a concrete house, has 13 bighas scattered in four places. The largest of his plots, where he grows paddy, is in Gwjwnpur village. The *patta* granted to him does not have this 5-bigha plot. "When the government surveyors came to map the plots, my name was registered wrongly," he explained. "But I am told that possessing that plot is a matter of time."

Gadajuli and Dhimapur villages are under the Gadajuli Forest Rights Committee (FRC), one of 154 in Sonitpur district, mostly along the border with Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district. All the FRCs are inhabited by the Bodos, the largest plains tribe in the Northeast.

Brahma's paddy field, about 3 km north of Dhimapur, lies on the west bank of the Kengkra stream. A few metres beyond the east bank is Abwi Centre, a market established in 2000 and named after an unnamed *abwi* ('old woman' in the Bodo language) who set up the first shop there. A major rural market today, Abwi Centre is one of four villages – along with No. 5 Kwdwmguri, No. 6 Sonajuli and Thaiswguri – comprising the Abwi Kouseti FRC. "Abwi Centre has some 70 families whose hopes of becoming landowners have soared after many villagers in Batashipur got their land settlement done. After government officials came here during July-September to map the plots with GPS (global positioning system) devices, we think it is a matter of time," Biswajit Basumatary, the vice-president of the Abwi Centre Bazaar Committee, said.

> The granting of the *pattas* has ended the struggle of the indigenous people to secure their land rights
>
> **PRAMOD BORO**
> Chief, Bodoland Territorial Council

'No option left'

On November 5, the land deeds were ceremonially handed over to the heads of 1,301 Bodo families across 15 of more than 70 FRCs in four occupied zones of the Charduar Reserve Forest. The certificates were distributed by two prominent Bodo leaders – Assam Textiles Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma and Bodoland Territorial Council chief Pramod Boro, both former student union presidents and leaders of the United People's Party Liberal, a constituent of the alliance government in Assam headed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Also at the programme was Ashok Singhal, the State's Irrigation Minister and the MLA representing Dhekiajuli, the Assembly constituency that encompasses the forest settlement area.

"The granting of the *pattas* has ended the struggle of the indigenous people to secure their land rights," Boro claimed, while Brahma cautioned the beneficiaries to ensure that their parcels of land are not transferred to "wrong persons" in the future. The term usually refers to Bengali-speaking or Bengal-origin Muslims, some of whom were evicted from 1,410 hectares of the 22,403-hectare Lumding Reserve Forest in central Assam's Hojai district in November 2021.

Singhal said the beneficiaries were selected by the FRCs constituted by the Assam government, which scrutinised all relevant documents during the process that began with a review meeting on the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The review meeting on October 5, 2021, at the Sonitpur Deputy Commissioner's office, was chaired by Ranoj Pegu, the Minister for the Welfare of Plains Tribes and Backward Classes. Underlining the government's duty to facilitate land rights liberally to the "deprived ST forest dwellers", Pegu said the cases of land settlement rejected previously for various reasons need to be revisited and reviewed following due procedure and the eligibility criteria.

"There were a total of 3,600 applicants, but not all could submit proper documents. By December, we intend to increase the number of *patta* holders from 1,301 to at least 2,000 families and the process will continue for the remaining eligible families," Deba Kumar Mishra, Sonitpur's Deputy Commissioner, said. "Some people say they are not original inhabitants, but there is no way you can evict them even though the area used to be a forest. They are tribal people, sons of the soil. Moreover, the forest in the occupied patches is no longer in existence."

A couple in Dhimapur village. RITU RAJ KONWAR

> The Chief Minister is communalising the issue by drawing a line between who he thinks is indigenous and who is not.
>
> **AMINUL ISLAM**
> AIUDF leader

Netra Jyoti Gayan, a forester in the Assam Forest Department's Dhekiajuli Range, said his team was told to carry out a joint survey of the occupied forest land with officials of the Revenue Department. "We carried out the exercise for two months from mid-July and plotted the parcels of land with GPS devices. This was based on a list of FRCs and constituent villages provided by the district administration," he said.

An FRC, comprising 10-15 people with a third required to be women, is formed to facilitate the process of settling a claim to land by a forest dweller after it passes through three levels of checks – a committee of the villages involved, the sub-divisional-level committee and the district-level committee. The Forest Rights Act Amendment Rules, 2012 give a list of 14 proofs a claimant can provide to prove occupancy of forest land before December 13, 2005. The evidence includes public documents such as census, maps, satellite imagery and government-authorised documents such as voter identity and ration cards. A statement of a village elder, other than the claimant, can also be submitted as proof.

Identifying a forest dweller

Sarat Basumatary, the spokesperson of the Sonitpur district unit of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) that was formed in 2008, said his family took refuge in Gadajuli from Dhemaji district further east 26 years ago. His landless father used to work on the farm of an Adi tribal in Arunachal Pradesh across the interstate boundary.

"I was forced to stay away as there wasn't any educational institution in this area. Today, the Batashipur, Belsri, Hugrajuli and Missamari areas we were accused of encroaching upon have 42 government-run schools, Anganwadi centres, a 14 km gravel road from Dhekiajuli railway station to the Arunachal Pradesh border, and an electricity connection," he recounted. "We were provided ration cards and the adults, about 25,000 at that time, were enrolled as voters in 2004. If we are illegal settlers, why did the government provide all these facilities?"

"We have created a forest village and thus, the land allotment to the indigenous families is not illegal," Singhal, the local MLA, said, crediting Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for fast-tracking the permanent settlement of landless indigenous communities.

There's a difference between forest dwellers and encroachers, countered Dilip Nath, a Dhekiajuli local waging a lone battle as a member of the green group Aranya Suraksha Samity. He has often taken the local authorities to court over large-scale deforestation, encroachment in protected areas and efforts to regularise the settlers on forest lands.

"There are only 14 recognised forest villages in Sonitpur district and we had no issues when 20-odd Bodo families were given settlement within the Balipara Reserve Forest yonder in 2016. But the people of Batashipur, Belsri and adjoining areas are not original or traditional forest dwellers. How can the government create a forest village?" he asked.

He showed records of the Forest Department undertaking 131 eviction drives from 1996 to 2005. The Forest personnel demolished six huts on August 28, 1996, in the Batashipur area only to find the number of settlers increase rapidly. On November 28, 1996, they destroyed 365 huts. This led to frequent conflicts between the settlers and the eviction teams, and in one such "battle" in 1997, a farmer named Hari Basumatary was shot. The residents of the villages under the Lakhijuli FRC regard him as a "martyr".

By May 2002, the conflict expanded eastward to the 175 sq. km Sonai-Rupai area that was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1998. The conflict petered out with two cases of removal of huts of encroachers in the wildlife sanctuary, once a safe home for the rare pygmy hog, in January 2005.

"The Forest Department did not need to carry out the eviction drives if they are really forest dwellers," Nath argued, emphasising the need to correctly identify original forest dwellers and limit land rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 to them. He added, for instance, that more than 40,000 people have been living inside the wildlife sanctuary for two-and-a-half decades because of political patronage.

"In 2010, the State government approved the construction of 38 schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by violating the Wildlife Protection Act. All these schools are now polling centres, each with at least 1,200 voters," Nath claimed.

Bibhuti Mazumdar, a Sonai-Rupai range officer, admitted that about 85 sq. km of the 220 sq. km wildlife sanctuary has been under encroachment. "But the squatters have not been regularised here unlike in the more flexible reserve forests. Issuing land deeds in the sanctuary will need the approval of the National Board for Wildlife," he said.

The settlers of Batashipur received a shot in the arm when the FRA was passed in December 2006, with Bodo leaders realising that with the eviction drives having been stopped recently they could claim rights under the Act. A coordination committee of farmers staying in the reserve forests began communicating with the government. "We applied for land rights in 2008 and the FRCs were formed in 2009. Things began falling in place but no government until recently showed any seriousness in removing the uncertainty from our lives," Rupnath Basumatary, the secretary of the Gadajuli FRC, said.

Political dividends

Sonitpur is believed to have borne the brunt of extremism in the 1980s and 1990s linked to the Bodoland statehood movement. Non-Bodos claim the Bodo leadership encouraged Bodos to shift from other parts of Assam to the proposed Bodoland areas to enable a Bodo majority. Many moved to the reserve forests of Sonitpur district. Extremist activities often prevented forest guards from patrolling critical areas.

According to data provided in the Assam Assembly in March, more than 70% of the 92,405 hectares of land across 12 reserve forests under Sonitpur East and Sonitpur West Forest Divisions are under encroachment.

Bodo community leaders in the Dhekiajuli subdivision of Sonitpur district, however, argue that rumours were spun to dehumanise the tribal people displaced by floods, economic hardship and ethnic clashes until the creation of the Bodoland Autonomous Council in 2003. This was upgraded to the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) in 2020.

"Are we in the BTR today? Some activists are targeting us because we are Bodos who had, at one point in time, demanded Assam be divided 50-50 between us and the others," Adim Swargiary, the president of the Batashipur unit of ABSU, said. (Sonitpur district borders the eastern edge of the BTR.)

Officials said Sonitpur was among a few districts where land allotment in forest areas was on hold for more than a decade. Other tribal communities such as the Mishing will be granted *patta* in the Gohpur area of the adjoining Biswanath district, which was carved out of Sonitpur in 2015.

The *patta* distribution in Batashipur preceded the launch of Assam's Mission Basundhara 2.0, a scheme for providing land rights through self-certification to indigenous people who have been residing in particular plots for long but do not have any official records. Launching the mission, Chief Minister Sarma asked the circle officers to distinguish the indigenous settlers from "organised encroachers", citing Gorukhuti as an example of the latter.

Midway between Guwahati and Batashipur, Gorukhuti is a government-backed agricultural project on the Brahmaputra riverbank. The land for this project used to be inhabited and cultivated by migrant Muslims who were evicted amid violence in September 2021. Two inhabitants, including a minor, died in police firing during the eviction.

The opposition parties, chiefly the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), see in the process of granting *patta* in occupied government land, including forests, a pattern for polarising voters. "The Chief Minister is communalising the land settlement issue by drawing a line between who he thinks is indigenous and who is not. He is indirectly targeting a minority community in order to please Nagpur (headquarters of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) and the anti-Muslim forces," senior AIUDF leader and MLA Aminul Islam said.

Conservationists feel it may be too late to reverse the encroachment across Assam's protected areas due to vote-bank politics. "But we can definitely save the green patches that still remain," said Bibhab Kumar Talukdar of conservation and wildlife organisation Aaranyak.

From Page One

81 cr. people to get free foodgrains for one year

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Mr. Modi, also approved the minimum support price (MSP) for copra for the 2023 season. The approval is based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and views of major coconut-growing States, the Centre said.

Briefing reporters, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said the MSP for fair average quality of milling copra had been fixed at ₹10,860 per quintal and for ball copra at ₹11,750 per quintal for the 2023 season. "This is an increase of ₹270 per quintal for milling copra and ₹750 per quintal for ball copra over the previous season. This would ensure a margin of 51.82% for milling copra and 64.26% for ball copra over the all India weighted average cost of production. The announced MSP of copra for the 2023 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all- India weighted average cost of production as announced by the government in the Budget 2018-19," Mr. Thakur said.

The decision would ensure better remunerative returns to coconut growers and improve their welfare substantively.

Session ends in RS amid din over V-P's remark on Sonia

Cong. stages a walkout over Jagdeep Dhankhar's observations against Sonia Gandhi's comments during a party meeting; Kharge calls the Chairman's statement 'unfortunate' and 'unprecedented'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

> This office cannot be allowed to be dragged on partisan stance... I suffered the allegation that I was a part of a system to delegitimise Judiciary, which means, sounding a death knell of democracy

The Winter Session of Parliament ended on a bitter note in the Upper House, with the Congress and the other parties walking out over Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's adverse observations against Congress Parliamentary Party Chairman Sonia Gandhi for her comments decrying Ministers and "a high Constitutional authority" for their "calculated attempt" to "delegitimise the judiciary".

On Thursday, Mr. Dhankhar taking cognisance of Ms. Gandhi's address to her party's MPs during a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party, had termed it "severely inappropriate" and said that his unexceptional response was unavoidable because it (Ms. Gandhi's remarks) indicates "lack of faith in democracy".

He also advised "leaders across the political spectrum to bear in mind not to subject high Constitutional offices to partisan stances". Ms. Gandhi in her address had not directly named Mr. Dhankhar.

Objecting to Mr. Dhankhar's comment, the Congress began protests at the very onset of Friday's proceedings. Party president Mallikarjun Kharge called the Chairman's statement "unfortunate" and "unprecedented". He demanded that the Chairman's Thursday's observations be expunged from the records in the "interest of democracy" and to avoid setting a "precedent". Meanwhile, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh wrote a a two-page letter to Mr. Dhankhar on the matter, terming the Chairman's comments as "extraordinary".

Hitting back, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal without naming Ms. Gandhi said, "It is very unfortunate that the honourable Member of Parliament, even though she may be from the other House, has chosen to cast aspersions on this very high office. And, therefore, it was very, very appropriate that a response was given."

No middle ground

All these statements were made amidst din as Opposition members continued shouting slogans asking Mr. Dhankhar to withdraw his statement. Unmoved by the protests, Mr. Dhankhar reiterated, "This office cannot be allowed to be dragged on partisan stance. I cannot be enlisted either by them or by you to delegitimise judiciary. I suffered the allegation that I was a part of a system to delegitimise judiciary, which means, sounding a death knell of democracy."

The Opposition too was unwilling to listen to treasury benches or Chairman and staged a walkout. Expressing solidarity with the Congress, MPs from Trinamool Congress, RJD, CPI and other parties walked out. AAP, CPI(M), BRS and DMK stayed back. However, both DMK and BRS leaders defended Ms. Gandhi and argued that statements made outside the House can not be taken up here.

Even after the walkout, Mr. Dhankhar once again recapitulated his stand.

102% productivity

Regardless of the sparring between the two sides over various issues the Rajya Sabha reported 102% productivity.

'LS Winter Session cut short after floor leaders' consensus'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Om Birla

The Winter Session of the Lok Sabha was adjourned *sine die* (indefinitely) on Friday, six days ahead of schedule, with the Opposition parties forcing repeated adjournments in the final days over their demand for a discussion on the border issue with China at Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The Winter Session commenced on December 7 and was scheduled to conclude on December 29, but it was cut short. This is the eighth straight session to conclude before the scheduled date.

Lok Speaker Om Birla, however, said there was consensus among floor leaders of all parties to cut short the session because of the upcoming festive season and New Year celebration. His remarks assume significance against the backdrop of Opposition leaders alleging that the government has been consistently curtailing Parliament sessions.

In his valedictory address to the Lower House, Mr. Birla said the productivity of the House was 97% during the 13 sittings and seven Bills were passed including the supplementary demands for grants and the Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill.

On Wednesday, after two days of an extensive debate on the growing menace of drug and narcotics substances, the Lok Sabha adopted a resolution for the members to collectively work on creating awareness among the youth against substance abuse.

After the session, Mr. Birla hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other senior leaders for a customary meeting over tea at his chamber.

Bharat Biotech's nasal COVID vaccine available as booster

Nasal route

Bharat Biotech's intranasal COVID-19 vaccine — branded as iNCOVACC — is now available for public use

- It is the world's first intranasal vaccine approved for use
- The nasal vaccine — BBV154 — had received approval in November for restricted use
- It is a recombinant replication deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilised spike protein. This candidate was evaluated in phase I, II and III clinical trials with successful results

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

With the threat of COVID-19 resurfacing and India ramping up health surveillance measures, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Friday that a vaccine, which could be administered as nasal drops, would henceforth be available for public use.

"We have made available a nasal vaccine, developed by Bharat Biotech, that can be used as a precaution (booster) dose. So, whether you have been administered Covaxin or Covishield or any other vaccine, the nasal shot can work," the Minister said at a public event.

A spokesperson for Bharat Biotech told *The Hindu* that appointments for the nasal vaccine would be available via the CoWIN website.

iNCOVACC, co-developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech and the U.S.-based Washington University, was approved in November for 'restricted emergency use' for those aged 18 or older.

The nasal vaccine is approved both as a primary dose and a heterologous booster. It was approved as a primary dose after Phase-3 trials, and was separately tested for safety and immunogenicity as a booster, according to a company statement.

Unlike Covaxin, which is an inactivated coronavirus injected along with an adjuvant, iNCOVACC is an adenovirus-vectored vaccine with a "prefusion stabilised spike protein", which is more like the technology employed in the Covishield vaccines.

So far, over 220 crore vaccines have been administered in those aged 12 and above in India.

Kamal Haasan to join Bharat Jodo Yatra as it enters Delhi today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kamal Haasan

Actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan, family members of freedom fighters and senior Congress leaders will be joining Rahul Gandhi as the Bharat Jodo Yatra enters Delhi on Saturday before it takes a nine-day break.

Mr. Haasan, who is the president of the Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM), will also record a one-on-one conversation with Mr. Gandhi with whom he is said to share a close rapport.

Addressing the MNM office-bearers last week, Mr. Haasan had said he has been invited by Rahul Gandhi and that he would participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra on Saturday in the national capital. He is said to have told his colleagues that his presence in the Yatra would make it clear where he stood in terms of his politics.

On Friday, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) deputy general secretary and Lok Sabha MP Kanimozhi joined the yatra.

Meanwhile, Delhi Congress president Anil Chaudhary said at least 40,000 to 50,000 yatris are expected to participate in the yatra in the national capital. After a nine-day break beginning Saturday night, the yatra will resume on January 3 from Uttar Pradesh, then again head to Haryana and then to Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Cong. a 'way of thinking', Modi failed to understand its ideology: Rahul

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Warm reception: Rahul Gandhi receives a memento from a supporter during the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Haryana on Friday. PTI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that he spoke about "Congress Mukt Bharat" in his election speeches, but failed to understand the ideology of Congress which was "a way of living and thinking" and not just about a political party.

Addressing a gathering at Faridabad in Haryana on the last day of Bharat Jodo Yatra in the State, Mr. Gandhi said the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) "were two different ways of thinking and living". While Mr. Modi had understood the ideology of his party which was to spread violence, fear and hatred, he could not understand the ideology of Congress. "The BJP and the RSS are the markets of hatred, and the Congress is the shop of love in the same market," he said.

Mr. Gandhi said the policies of the BJP such as demonetisation, GST and unemployment spread fear, but the policies of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the Land Acquisition Bill dispelled all fears. Mr. Gandhi added that the Congress was a "weapon" of the poor, the downtrodden, the farmers and the labourers.

Continuing his attack on Mr. Modi, Mr. Gandhi said the PM spent thousands of crores to defame him and his party for seven-eight years, but he never uttered a word and now proved Mr. Modi wrong in just one month.

16 Army personnel killed in Sikkim accident

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sixteen Army personnel lost their lives after an Army truck met with an accident in north Sikkim on Friday. "The ill-fated vehicle, which was part of a convoy, skidded down a steep slope at Zema while negotiating a sharp turn," the Army's Eastern Command said in a statement.

Four injured soldiers, who were evacuated by air, are being treated at a military hospital in Siliguri, officials said.

Expressing condolences to the bereaved families, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he was "deeply pained" by the loss of lives of the personnel. "The nation is deeply grateful for their service and commitment. My condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of those who are injured," he tweeted.

Regulator proposes full refund, free travel for seat downgrade on flights

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Domestic and international airlines could soon be required to refund the full ticket value and provide free travel for any passenger whom they downgrade from business or premium economy to economy class, according to a proposal of the aviation regulator.

The suggestion comes at a time when there have been several complaints about airlines such as Air India downgrading passengers to a lower class than the one they booked because of issues such as unserviceable seats.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will invite stakeholders' comments on its proposal before amending a section of its Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) that lays down compensation norms for those denied boarding, or facing flight delays and cancellation.

Several passengers have complained against airlines such as Air India for changing their seating class. FILE PHOTO

Amendment likely

"In view of rapid expansion of air services within India and on international routes to or from India and with the increase in the volume of passenger traffic, it has been noticed that sometimes airlines downgrade passenger tickets. In order to cater to such situations, we are in the process of amending CAR to protect the rights of air travellers," DGCA director-general Arun Kumar said.

Airlines are likely to oppose the DGCA's recommendation, given that it is far more stringent than common global practices.

For instance, in the U.S., as per the Department of Transport's website, a passenger is only entitled to a refund for the difference in price of the two classes.

In the U.K., according to its Civil Aviation Authority, a passenger is only entitled to reimbursement of a percentage of the ticket price for the flight on which they are downgraded.

5 policemen among 17 held in cross-LoC narcotics trade case

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Seventeen people, including five policemen, were arrested in Kupwara and Baramulla districts of north Kashmir in connection with a probe into narcotics-smuggling modules originating from Pakistan, the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) police said on Friday.

A political activist, contractor and shopkeeper were also among those arrested in multiple raids. The police described it as "one of the biggest successes against drug smuggling and peddling in Kupwara".

"Shakir Ali Khan, a Pakistan-based handler originally hailing from Keran has been revealed to be the main supplier of narcotics, to his son Tahmeed Khan on this side of Line of Control (LoC). On Tahmeed's confession and disclosure, two packets of heroin-like narcotics weighing close to 2 kg have been recovered from his house. Tahmeed used to transport it to Kupwara to sell it among his friends and other arrested associates," the police said.

According to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) official, Tahmeed had smuggled about 5 kg of narcotics valued at ₹5 crore from Pakistan in the last three months.

The latest police clampdown on the module started after the police zeroed in on some drug peddlers active in Kupwara town and adjoining areas and arrested Muhammad Waseem Najar, a poultry shop owner from Darzipura, "with some quantity of narcotics".

Kappan gets bail in PMLA case

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court granted bail to Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan on Friday in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The jailed journalist moved the High Court after being denied bail by a Lucknow sessions court on October 31 in the PMLA case. Hence he had to remain in prison despite being granted bail by the Supreme Court (SC) in a Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) case. The bail from the HC means Mr. Kappan will walk free after more than 26 months since his arrest in October 2020 while he was on his way to Hathras, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being raped.

Illegal phone tapping: chargesheet against 2 former MDs of NSE

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The unauthorised recording and monitoring of call lines had allegedly started in 1997

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against two former managing directors of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey in a previous capacity as director of a private company and others, in a case alleging illegal phone tapping of the exchange's employees during 2009-17.

Among those arraigned are Mr. Pandey and Naman Chaturvedi, who were then the director and senior information security analyst of iSec Services respectively and former NSE managing directors Ravi Narain and Chitra Ramakrishna.

During the probe of another case related to the alleged "co-location" scam in the NSE, the CBI found that landline phones of the exchange's employees were illegally intercepted. The unauthorised recording and monitoring of personal call lines had allegedly started in 1997 when they were connected to a voice recorder provided by a private company.

According to the CBI, the employees of said company were given unauthorised access to listen to the calls and submit weekly reports to the NSE executive vice-president and head.

Santa brigade

Dressed to chill: Children dressed as Santa Claus going to school on a cold morning in New Delhi on Friday. All government schools will remain closed from January 1 to 15 for winter vacation. R.V. MOORTHY

Cabinet approves pending OROP revision for veterans

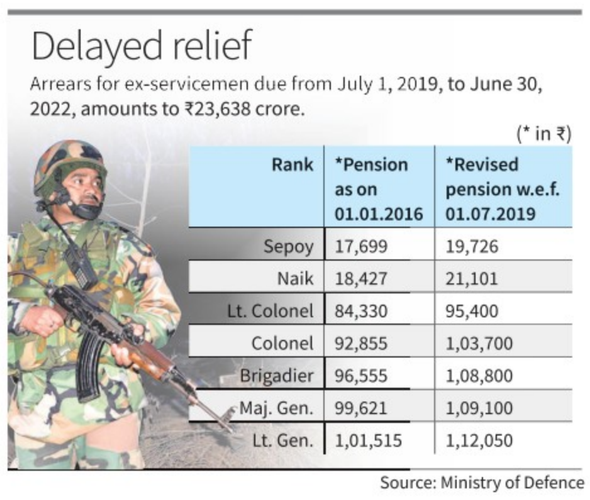
The pension revision for personnel has been delayed since July 2019; according to the Defence Ministry more than 25.13 lakh persons, including 4.52 lakh new beneficiaries, stand to gain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved a pension revision for retirees from the armed forces and their families under the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, which has been delayed since July 2019. Arrears will be paid from July 01, 2019, to June 30, 2022, which is approximately ₹23,638 crore as per the applicable dearness relief, the Defence Ministry said.

"Pension of the past pensioners would be re-fixed on the basis of average of minimum and maximum pension of defence forces retirees of calendar year 2018 in the same rank with the same length of service," a Defence Ministry statement said.

More than 25.13 lakh people, including over 4.52 lakh new beneficiaries, armed forces pensioners and family pensioners will benefit, it said.



Armed forces personnel with a retirement date up to June 30, 2019, excluding premature retirees with effect from July 1, 2014, will be covered under this revision, the Ministry said.

Against the backdrop of delays, veterans had taken the legal route to pursue the revision. The case has been repeatedly delayed with the Government asking for more time in the Supreme Court.

One Rank One Pension implies uniform pension to personnel based on rank and length of service, and irrespective of the date of retirement.

Pension for those drawing above the average shall be protected and the benefit would also be extended to family pensioners, including war widows and disabled pensioners, the Ministry said.

Arrears will be paid in four half-yearly instalments. However, all the family pensioners, including those in receipt of special, liberalised family pensions, and gallantry award winners, shall be paid arrears in one instalment.

The estimated annual expenditure for the implementation of the revision has been calculated as approximately ₹8,450 crore based on 31% Dearness Relief (DR).

Arrears from July 1, 2019, to December 31, 2021, have been calculated as over ₹19,316 crore based on DR at 17% for the period from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021, and at 31% for the period from July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021. Arrears from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2022, have been calculated as approximately ₹23,638 crore as per the applicable dearness relief. This expenditure is over and above the ongoing expenditure on account of OROP, the statement added.

Army recruits 4 meritorious sportswomen as Havildars

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Army has recruited four meritorious sportswomen into the Corps of Military Police as direct entry Havildars under its Mission Olympic Programme.

The four sportswomen – Recruit Havildar Sakshi (Boxing), Recruit Havildar Arundhati Choudhary (Boxing), Recruit Havildar Bhateri (Wrestling) and Recruit Havildar Priyanka (Wrestling) have created history by becoming pioneers to represent the Army in women category at the national championship in boxing and wrestling by participating in the 6th Elite Women National Boxing Championship 2022 from December 19 to 26 at Bhopal and Senior National Wrestling Championship from December 21 to 23 at Visakhapatnam.

The Army has a long tradition of promoting and nurturing sports personnel and runs a well-structured programme named "Mission Olympics", the statement added.

Russia, India can help in reviving intra-Afghan dialogue: Zamir Kabulov

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Russia and India can play a role in reviving the "intra-Afghan dialogue" if the Taliban requests such assistance, said the Russian Special Representative for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov in an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*.

Mr. Kabulov, who is the longest-serving Kremlin official in Afghanistan, said the Taliban's counter-terror measures are "insufficient" but they deserve "tribute" and that the regional countries are willing to help the Taliban defeat the security threats.

"I hope that the Taliban will learn from the mistakes made by the former President [Ghani] and from its previous experience in 1996-2001. How to find a solution – through broadly representative intra-Afghan consultations, a Loya Jirga or something else – is up to the Afghan people themselves to decide. Russia is ready to provide necessary assistance in this regard if such a signal comes from Kabul. We are convinced that India's role in it will also be required," said Mr. Kabulov in a written response to *The Hindu*.

Zamir Kabulov

Mr. Kabulov gave a broad impression of Russia's position regarding the Taliban and said, "The objective reality is that the Taliban controls almost all the territory of Afghanistan." From the Russian point of view, the forces that are opposing the Taliban "are not competitive".

Mr. Kabulov, who has been engaging the Taliban, believes the Taliban are not homogenous and there are various shades of opinions within the outfit about issues like education for women.

"For example, according to the available information, in some northern provinces, the Taliban authorities are more well disposed to the issue of access to education for girls than in other ones."

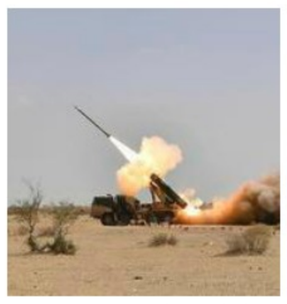
The veteran Russian negotiator believes that there is a possibility of the spread of terrorism from Afghanistan to neighbouring countries. "We see that the Taliban forces are doing a serious job to fight the ISIS and other terrorist groups in the country, although they are still far from solving the problem as a whole," said Mr. Kabulov, adding, "it is worth paying tribute to the counter-terrorism measures taken by the Taliban government, but we believe them to be insufficient."

CAG pulls up DRDO for delay in the completion of projects and failure to achieve key parameters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Assessing the Mission Mode (MM) projects of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged time and cost overrun in completion of projects, irregular closure of projects declaring them successful despite non-achievement of one or more key objectives and parameters, and taking up of new projects for realising the unachieved objectives of earlier closed projects declared as successful.

"In 119 out of the 178 projects, the original time schedules could not be adhered to. In 49 cases, the additional time was in fact more than 100% of the original time frame. Overall, the delays ranged from 16% to 500% and extension of time for completion of projects was taken multiple times. Time overruns in completion of MM projects, where technologies are either available or easily accessible, defeats the purpose of taking them up as an MM Project," CAG said in a performance audit on 'Management and Outcome of Mission Mode Projects in DRDO', the report of which was tabled in Parliament on December 21. Out of the 86 projects declared as successful during January 2010 and December 2019, in 20 projects involving an expenditure of ₹1,074.67 crore, one or more key objective(s)/parameter(s) was/were not achieved, the report noted.


DRDO testing Pinaka guided rocket in Pokhran in 2019.

Mission Mode (MM) projects are taken up by DRDO as high-priority projects based on specific user requirements with a definite time frame for their completion.

The report highlighted that despite the fact that MM projects have a very high outcome certainty due to ready availability of underlying technology, there were considerable delays in initiation and sanction of such projects by DRDO.

Stating that there were abnormal delays in submission of Administrative Closure Reports ranging from 15 to 112 months, the report said, "Out of 86 successfully closed projects, in 25 projects, the Transfer of Technology (ToT) has not been concluded or production has not started even after five to 12 years of successful closure of projects."

Uttarakhand's conversion law gets Governor nod

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand Governor has given his nod to the State's Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, the government said on Friday.

The State will now issue a formal notification of the amended Bill after which forced conversion will come under the category of "crime". Mr. Ranjit Sinha, Secretary to the Governor, has confirmed Governor Lt. Gen. (retd.) Gurmit Singh's assent to the Act.

There was a long standing demand in Uttarakhand for strict action against forced conversions, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had said. Following this, the government introduced the Religion Freedom Amendment Bill in the Assembly on November 29.

As per the amended Bill, conversion by force, greed or fraud will be a crime in the State. Those found guilty will get imprisoned for up to 10 years. In the new law, a fine of ₹50,000 has been made compulsory. Anyone found guilty of conversion will have to pay up to ₹5 lakh to the victim.

This law was made in Uttarakhand in 2018. There was a provision of punishment of one to five years for conversion by force or inducement.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Construction of both side RCC Drain at Growth Centre, Phase-I, Bolangir, Odisha.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.792.46 lakh
3. Period of Completion : 05 (Five) Calendar Months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID /Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-129/2022-23	30.12.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.	16.01.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-4232 OIPR-14003/11/0239/2223

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation Project (TNIAMP)
Invitation for Bids under National Competitive Bidding for Goods

1. For details visit https://www.tenders.tn.gov.in
2. On behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Workshop and Stores Circle, Chennai invites Bids for the following works.

Sl. No.	RFB No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Date of availability of Bid Document	Due date for submission	Date & time of opening of bid
1	TNIAMP / VEHICLE PURCHASE / PH II / 3-2 / 2022 - 23	1 / 2022 / SE / WSC / dt:23.12.2022.	Purchase of 52 numbers of 7 seater Jeeps for Water Resources Department Officials under TNIAMP	26.12.2022 to 24.01.2023 upto 5:45 PM (IST)	25.01.2023 upto 03:00 PM (IST)	25.01.2023 at 03:30 PM (IST)

Any corrections or modifications will be published on website only.

DIPR/ 5692 /TENDER/2022

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

Superintending Engineer, WRD.,
Workshop and Stores Circle, Chennai-5.

IndianOil

Marketing Division — Southern Region

Advt. No: IOCL/MKTG/APPR/2022-23

Notification for Engagement of 265 ITI / Diploma qualified Apprentices in Southern Region under the Apprentices Act 1961

IndianOil, Marketing Division, Southern Region, as a measure of Skill Development Initiative for the Nation invites applications for Engagement of **265 Trade Apprentices (Trade Apprentice – ITI / Technician Apprentice - Diploma)** for the year 2022 - 23 at its Locations in the States of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana.

Full text of the Advertisement including eligibility criteria of age, qualification and details of stipend, relaxations, concessions, reservations, etc., is hosted in our Corporate website **https://www.iocl.com/apprenticeships** from **14th December 2022 @ 10.00 hrs.**

How to apply: Interested candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may apply through the above mentioned website from **14th December 2022 @ 10.00 hrs** onwards. Closing date for online submission of Application is **3rd January 2023 @ 17:00 hrs.**

Any subsequent notification / amendment in the matter shall be notified in **www.iocl.com** only.

Note: The Corporation shall have no obligation to give regular employment to Apprentices. The Apprentices shall have no right to claim regular employment from the Corporation on the basis of this Apprenticeship at any point of time. This Apprenticeship shall not create any liability on IOCL for providing any job to the Apprentice.

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NOTIFICATION OF VACANCY FOR RECRUITMENT

The Central Sanskrit University, Delhi invites applications through **Online mode only** from Indian Nationals for **recruitment to various Teaching and other Academic posts** at its Headquarter Office at New Delhi and the Campuses located at different places in the country. For details of posts, vacancy position, eligibility conditions, specializations, procedure for submission of online application & fee etc. and other terms and conditions, please visit University's website **www.sanskrit.nic.in**. The Last Date of Online Registration/Submission of application is 23.01.2023.

REGISTRAR

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Address : Municipal Corporation Aurangabad. Executive Engineer (Roads)
Head Office : Town Hall Pin 431001. Tel No. (0240) 2333536-40 Fax No. (0240) 2331213
E-Tender Call AMC (for Help) : Mob No. 9764999577

No./AMC/Dy. Eng.(09)/Roads/297/2022 Date : 22/12/2022

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Last Date of Tender Submission
1	Asphalting of Side Shoulders & Road Furniture Work for Kranti Chowk to Railway Station Road in Zone No. 09 Area. (Tender Amount Rs. 83,60,122/-)	Date : 30/12/2022
2	Strengthening & Asphalting of Road In-Front of Holiday Home in Zone No. 09. (Tender Amount Rs. 41,28,331/-)	Date : 30/12/2022
3	Construction of Footpath from Bhaijiwali Bai Chowk to Yasho Mangal Karyalay in Zone No. 09. (Tender Amount Rs. 1,06,03,986/-)	Date : 30/12/2022
4	Construction of Footpath from Bhaijiwali Bai Chowk to Anand Gade Chowk ITI Corner in Zone No. 09. (Tender Amount Rs. 1,12,79,620/-)	Date : 30/12/2022
5	Construction of RCC Divider / Center Median at Kranti Chowk to Mahaveer Chowk. (Tender Amount Rs. 82,03,677/-)	Date : 30/12/2022
6	Construction of RCC Divider / Center Median at Mahaveer Flyover to Ram Mandir to Railway Station to GST Office. (Tender Amount Rs. 38,10,370/-)	Date : 30/12/2022

Note : Detailed information of the tender for which interested proposals are invited through this e-auction mode The website is available at www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
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Aurangabad Municipal Corporation

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Adv.No.54/D3/CE/TTD/2022-23 & NIT No.68/SE-I/2022-23 & NIT No.350/SE-II/2022-23 Dt:21/12/2022

Name of the Works: (1) Construction of 3rd and 4th floors over existing Central Library building for Clinical Research Center at SVIMS, Tirupati, Amount 1000 Lakhs. Time for completion 12 months. **(2)** Construction of Additional PAC on backside of Govardhan Choultry at Tirumala, Amount 9800 Lakhs. Time for completion 18 months.

NOTE: For full details log on to the website **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** or **http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in.**

Roc.No.PR4/13949/Adv.No.317/PRO/2022, Dated:23-12-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Project Management Unit
Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project
PDU-CTRFA, Sudhowala, Dehradun-248007
E-mail- ukpfmswb@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Application for Individual Consultants and Supporting Staff)

The Government of Uttarakhand is being financed from the World Bank toward the cost of Public Financial Management Strengthening Project in Uttarakhand and intends to apply part of the proceeds for following consultancy services-:

S. No.	Individual Consultants	Method of Procurement	Last date of Submission
1.	Application for the following Individual Consultants and Supporting Staff are invited for Project Management Unit (PMU) in Finance Department, Uttarakhand, Dehradun (GoUK) 1. Senior Advisor- Debt Management 2. Senior Advisor - Economic Policies & Financial Management 3. Advisor - Externally Aided Projects 4. Data Analyst 5. Program Assistants	Open Competitive selection of Individual consultant	13th Jan 2023 by 17:00 Hrs IST

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for these positions can be found at Audit Department Website http://www.uttarakhandaudit.uk.gov.in. Further, any queries may be sought through email ukpfmswb@gmail.com within 5 days from the publication of this notice. Applications on the prescribed format (both pdf and MS world file) should be submitted through email only ukpfmswb@gmail.com. Submission of application in any other mode is not entertained/accepted.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Central – 1, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office, Bengaluru-02

No:EE(P.C-1)/PR/306/2022-23 Date: 23.12.2022

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

Sub: Regarding cancellation of Tender for the works 1) Construction of New Urban Primary Health Centre Buildings at Rajarajeshwarainagara Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru 2) Repairs, Renovation and Upgradataion of Primary Health Centres & Maternity Hospital in Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone Limits, Bengaluru

Ref: This office tender notification No. EE/PC-1/TEND /10/2022-23 Dated 17-12-2022.

With reference to the above, the tender was invited by the Executive Engineer [Project Central-6] for the works 1) Construction of New Urban Primary Health Centre Buildings at Rajarajeshwarainagara Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru 2) Repairs, Renovation and Upgradataion of Primary Health Centres & Maternity Hospital in Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone Limits, Bengaluru in accordance to reference [1], the same was published in Prajavani and The Hindu on 18-12-2022. The said tender is cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Project Central - 1)

INBRIEF

Umar Khalid released on interim bail for a week

Former Jawaharlal Nehru University student Umar Khalid was released from the Tihar jail here on Friday after he was granted interim bail for a week to attend his sister's wedding, officials said. According to prison officials, Mr. Khalid was released on Friday morning. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat granted the relief to Mr. Khalid, who was arrested in a case related to the February 2020 northeast Delhi riots. He was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being a mastermind of the February 2020 riots, which had left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured.

CBI books Corporate Power Limited for bank fraud

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Kolkata-based Corporate Power Limited and 12 others, including the promoters, for allegedly cheating a consortium of 20 banks to the tune of ₹4,037.87 crore. The agency has conducted searches on 16 premises. According to the CBI, from 2009 to 2013, the company had submitted manipulated project cost statements and diverted the bank funds. It was also alleged that the trade receivables, mainly transactions to related parties and funds, were diverted to a web of entities that were dummy accounts. The accounts of the borrower company was declared a fraud in October 2019.

SC confirms dismissal of CISF man who harassed couple

The Supreme Court has, in a judgment, confirmed the dismissal of a CISF constable who harassed a couple at a park in Vadodara, Gujarat, 21 years ago. The court found the conduct of the constable "startling and distressing". He had insulted the frightened young woman by saying he wanted to "spend some time" with her, and finally settled for the man's watch after threatening to "expose" the couple. The watch was returned when the CISF constable, Santosh Kumar Pandey, was confronted the next day by his superiors who acted on the basis of a complaint from the young man who was harassed.

Two Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

A divisional committee rank Naxalite carrying at least two rewards totalling ₹21 lakh on her head was among two Naxalites killed in an encounter with the security forces, including C-60 commandos from neighbouring Maharashtra, in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, police said. Police nabbed three women in the operation who were working as watchers for Naxalites, a Maharashtra police official said. The woman Naxalite killed in the encounter was identified as Kanthi Lingavva alias Anitha (41), a divisional committee rank cadre. She was carrying a reward of ₹16 lakh on her head in Maharashtra.

U.P. and T.N. struggle with encroachment in Centrally protected monuments, sites

A total of 356 heritage structures have encroachments across the country, Tourism and Culture Minister Kishan Reddy told the Rajya Sabha; regular inspections being conducted by ASI officials

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of Centrally Protected Monuments that have been encroached upon, closely followed by Tamil Nadu.

While 75 protected monument sites have been enroached upon in Uttar Pradesh, the corresponding number for Tamil Nadu is 74, Minister for Tourism and Culture G. Kishan Reddy told the Rajya Sabha.

Uttar Pradesh also has the largest number of Centrally Protected monuments in the country at 743, while Tamil Nadu has 412.

A total of 356 such heritage structures have encroachments across the country, Mr. Reddy said in reply to a question by Congress MP Mukul Wasnik. In 2019, the government had informed the Rajya Sabha that there were 321 protected monuments whose sites had been infringed.

Karnataka and Maharashtra are third and fourth with 48 and 46 such monuments, respectively, hosting encroachments. Gujarat has 35 protected monuments that have been invaded.

India has a total of 3,695 Centrally Protected Monuments or Sites in the country, under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The monuments are regularly inspected by the ASI officials to assess their present condition. Necessary conservation and preservation works are taken up as per the requirement, he said.

The House was told that among the various action taken by the ASI are filing police complaints, issuing show-cause notices to defaulters for the removal of the said encroachments, and issuing demolition orders to the Collector for the demolition or removal of the said encroachments.

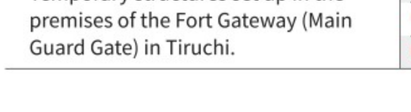
The ASI regulates construction around the protected monuments through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Act, 2010. The Act prohibits construction within 100 metres of a protected monument.

The next 300-metre radius is regulated too. Proposed amendments seek to do away with the ban on construction within 100 metres of a monument and only regulate construction within 100-200 metres, under the Act that protects monuments and sites over 100 years old.

This is expected to give more powers to the ASI on the encroachments.

Slow seige

The removal of encroachments is a continuous process and action is being taken by the Archaeological Society of India, the Culture Ministry said in Parliament



Temporary structures set up in the premises of the Fort Gateway (Main Guard Gate) in Tiruchi.

States with the most number of monuments encroached upon

- Uttar Pradesh: 75
- Tamil Nadu: 74
- Karnataka: 48
- Maharashtra: 46
- Gujarat: 35
- Rajasthan: 22

Plea challenges panel to examine SC status for Dalit converts

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Petitioner argues that the commission was formed with 'wrong intention of delaying justice'

A writ petition has now been filed in the Supreme Court of India, challenging the formation of a three-member Commission of Inquiry to examine whether it would be possible to accord Scheduled Caste status to Dalits who have over the years converted to Christianity or Islam.

The writ petition was filed on Friday by Pratap Baburao Pandit, Secretary of Pragat Padhividhar Sanghatna, a social and educational trust registered in Pune, who said he was a Christian of Scheduled Caste origin, belonging to the Mahar community.

Praying that the functioning of the panel be stayed and the notification forming it be quashed, the petition argued that the Centre has formed multiple Commissions, dating back to the first Backward Classes Commission (1955), on this subject that have already pronounced the need for according SC status to Dalit converts.

Hence, the petition said, "The appointment of a new Commission is with wrong intention of delaying the justice on the petition pending in this honorable court."

It argued that because all existing Commission reports and studies conducted so far supported the petitioners' position that SC status should be accorded to Dalit Christians and Muslims, "the appointment of the new commission can be with an intention of getting biased report" that favours the position taken by the Union government.

In the cases pending with the Supreme Court since 2004 with respect to this issue, the Narendra Modi-led government has consistently maintained that it is not in favour of SC status to Dalits Christians and Muslims.

CBI arrests Chanda Kochhar in Videocon Group loan case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chanda Kochhar

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested former ICICI Bank's chief executive officer and managing director, Chanda Kochhar, and her husband, Deepak Kochhar, in a case related to the credit facilities extended to the Videocon Group of companies.

"They has been arrested in Delhi and will be produced before a Special Court in Mumbai," said a CBI official.

The CBI had registered the case in January 2019, alleging quid pro quo in sanctioning loans of ₹1,875 crore to the companies of Videocon Group, headed by Venugopal Dhoot.

Based on the CBI case, the Enforcement Directorate initiated a money laundering investigation and had arrested Mr. Kochhar in September 2020. The same year, in January, it attached assets worth ₹78.15 crore, which included a Mumbai flat in the name of Ms. Kochhar, and other properties linked to her husband's company Nupower Renewables Private Limited and its subsidiaries. Mr. Kochhar was later released on bail.

It was alleged that during Ms. Kochhar's tenure, from June 2009 to October 2011, the ICICI Bank had sanctioned six high-value loans to the Videocon Group entities. The outstanding balance against the loans as on April 26, 2012, was adjusted as another term loan of ₹1,730 crore. In June 2017, the loan accounts were declared non-performing assets.

All is well for moa makers this winter

With an extension on the GI tag and more makers under the purview of the Society, this year's business is expected to be worth ₹30 crore; export of the sweet is moving to newer markets too

Bishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

This winter is going to be special for the Joynagar *moa*, the popular Bengal sweetmeat available only during the colder months of the year, with the number of registered manufacturers witnessing a massive rise and its Geographical Indication tag getting a 10-year extension.

The *moa* is a popped-rice ball held together with fresh date-palm jaggery, extracted from the beginning of December till the end of February. Its manufacture is so synonymous with Joynagar, a settlement on the outskirts of Kolkata, that it earned the Geographical Indication tag of Joynagar Moa in 2015. However, considering that the application for the recognition was submitted in 2012, the tag became valid from that year until 2022. Now, an extension has come through for another 10 years.

Season's staple: The *moa* is made of aromatic *khoi* that is mixed with jaggery, sugar, cashew nuts and raisins. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Also, this year, the number of manufacturers registered with the Joynagar Moa Nirmankari Society, which regulates the *moa* business, has gone up dramatically to 292 from 46. "We brought in many more manufacturers under our umbrella to ensure quality control, to make sure that all those who make the sweet keep up the quality and adhere to norms. You can say this is going to be a very good season for us. What's more, for the first time, we even have an office of our own; so far we were functioning out of someone's house," said Ashok Kumar Kayal, founding secretary of the Society.

"This season, we are also looking at an increase in the sales. Last season, we did business of about ₹22 crore; this year, we expect to cross ₹30 crore. And last season, we exported about 400 kg to Bahrain; this year, we are also likely to send some boxes to Switzerland," Mr. Kayal said.

Short shelf life

Said to date back to 1904, the *moa* is made of aromatic *khoi* (popped rice) that is mixed with jaggery, sugar, cashew nuts and raisins. Its only drawback is that it has a short shelf life, lasting not more than five days without refrigeration. The high perishability has prevented it from being shipped abroad all these decades. Its export began, on a very small scale, only in 2020.

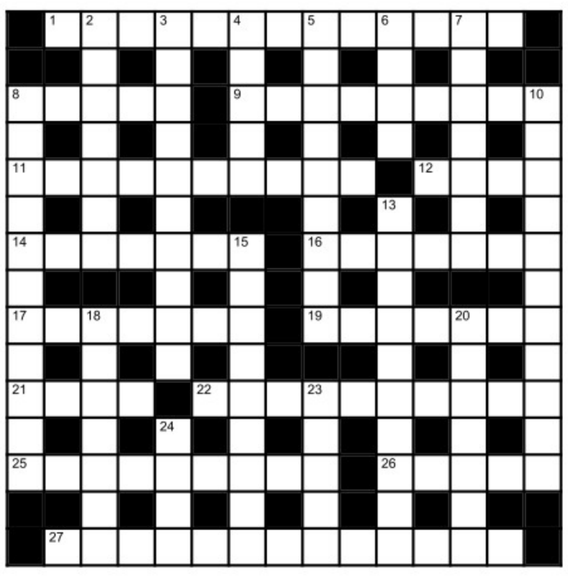
Mr. Kayal said the Society was in touch with IIT-Bombay and IIT-Kharagpur in order to develop packaging material that would dramatically increase the shelf life of the sweetmeat. "We are yet to get the samples. But from what I am told, the new material would increase the shelf life of our products from five days to two and a half months – now that's quite something!" he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13745

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Mingle on bed with singles freely? It has advantages and disadvantages (5,8)
8 Dog's coming back, crossing borders of estate - go faster! (3,2)
9 Lukewarm chapatti rolls stuffed with a little eggplant (9)
11 Shoddy curtain, it's not aesthetically appealing (10)
12 Rodent on a tree in New Zealand (4)
14 Popular liberal arrested by leader for innuendo (7)
16 Silencer in front of pistol, a Luger perhaps (7)
17 Bowed down to pick up musical instrument (7)
19 Society girls spending money to acquire Armani's latest big girl's blouses (7)
21 Wanting right grill for kiln (4)
22 Possible to separate from cheat cavorting in spot with lassie on vacation (10)
25 Succeeded in impressive round with mate involving bishops (9)
26 Drunkard grabbing sailor's wooden shoe (5)
27 Seasoned thief, craftily avoiding risk (2,3,4,4)

Down

2 Ipecac mixed with potassium, it's applied to reduce swelling (3,4)
3 Elaborate about royal in exile (10)
4 Palpitations with recurrent pain around middle of chest (5)
5 Applicants in a store welcomed by former partners (9)
6 Very sexy model going out in London's nightlife centre (4)
7 Captain of Bangladesh meets everyone after final game (7)
8 Vanish, like cigars do? (2,2,2,5)
10 Police record, say, about woman with ecstasy found in plot (6,5)
13 Expert starting to suggest idea for artificial body part (10)
15 Gulp! She discovered about affair in retreat - we're doomed (3,4,2)
18 Gay woman in the French bar, consuming drink heartily (7)
20 Leading industrialist, bisexual, cuddling male on couch is drunk (7)
23 As much as fifty pounds stolen by vile oaf (3,2)
24 Excellent hospital in province of Indonesia (4)

SUDOKU

8			6			7	1	
							4	9
9				5	3			
				1		2		
6			7		2			4
		5		6				
			9	2				7
1	8							
	2	9			7			3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS5658 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

B	U	D	A	P	E	S	T	
E		E		U		E		S
F	R	I	S	S	O	N		
O		G		H		S		I
R	U	N	I	C		I	N	C
E		S		H		T		K
			F	A	M	I	L	Y
O		A		I		V		F
M	O	T	O	R	V	E	H	I
I		T				P		N
S	P	A	R	K	P	L	U	G
S		C		E		A		E
I	N	H	U	M	A	N		
V		E		P		T		E
E	R	S	A	T	Z		A	D

A	T	R	I	U	M			
	U		N		I			
		T	A	L	L	I	E	S
	I		T		A			
E	P	T	I	O	N			
	K			A		D		
D	O	C	T	O	R			
	F		I		E		Y	
H	I	C	L	E				
	N		T		A		S	
L	U	G		A	B	B	O	T
	E		N		S		I	
A	N		R	A	K	E	O	F
	E		E		R		L	
O	R	A	B	L	E			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	6	8	9	4	2	5	1
1	9	4	5	2	7	8	6	3
5	2	8	1	3	6	7	9	4
9	1	5	3	7	8	6	4	2
6	4	7	2	1	9	5	3	8
3	8	2	6	4	5	1	7	9
4	5	9	7	8	2	3	1	6
2	6	3	4	5	1	9	8	7
8	7	1	9	6	3	4	2	5

FAITH

A day of 'rejoicing'

In the popular way, which is also the worldly way, Christmas is the day for entertainment – for merrymaking, But for those who believe in Christ, it is a day of 'rejoicing'. The angels rejoiced and sang on the night of the birth of Jesus. Mary, Jesus' Mother said, "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.' Rejoicing is for those who celebrate the true meaning of Christmas – merrymaking is for those who substitute Santa Claus for Christ. Open any newspaper and see the wide range of choices to celebrate this night – entertainment galore, each one outdoing the other to give us pleasure and entertain us. Two thousand years ago, when Christ was born, the angels did the same.

The true meaning of Christmas is two-fold. One is well known and the other not so well known. But both are reasons for us to rejoice. The well known reason is that on this day, we commemorate the birth of Jesus. The nativity of Christ. A king without earthly kingdom. Jesus, the preacher, the teacher, the friend of sinners, lepers and of the poor and the author of our salvation, He looms large in the history of this world and Christians across the world honour Him by celebrating His birth.

The second reason is not so well known but must be known to all. We also celebrate this day as the day when God's plan for saving us from sin was initiated. The Bible states, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved." God said he will send a Saviour, to save the world from the terrible consequences of sin – spiritual death for eternity. And God sent His own Son for this redemptive purpose, said Rev. Winston J Samuel in a Christmas address.

BEIJING

China's ByteDance admits using TikTok data to track journalists

REUTERS

Employees of Chinese tech giant ByteDance improperly accessed data from social media platform TikTok to track journalists in a bid to identify the source of leaks to the media, the company admitted on Friday. TikTok has earlier gone to great lengths to convince customers that users' data privacy is protected. AFP

THE HAGUE

Shell to pay €15 million to Nigerian farmers over pollution

AFP

Shell said on Friday it will pay 15 million euros to Nigerian farmers to compensate them for damage from pipeline leaks. Despite making an agreement with the Dutch court on the settlement, the oil firm said it "is on a no admission of liability basis, and settles all claims and ends all pending litigation related to the spills". AFP

SEOUL

N. Korea fires ballistic missiles after U.S.-South Korea warplane drills

AFP

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters on Friday, its latest weapons demonstration that came days after U.S. and South Korean warplanes conducted joint drills that North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal. South called the launches "a grave provocation" that hurts world peace. AP

KATHMANDU

Serial killer Charles Sobhraj leaves Nepali jail; to be sent to France

AFP

French serial killer Charles Sobhraj, responsible for multiple murders of young foreigners in the 1970s across Asia and linked to more than 20 murders, was freed on Friday after spending almost 20 years in a Nepali jail. The 78-year-old was due to be deported to France on Friday evening, his lawyer said following his release. AFP

Capitol riot: panel report says Trump 'lit that fire'

The former President criminally engaged in a 'multi-part conspiracy' to overturn the lawful results of the election and failed to act to stop his backers from the attack, the House committee asserts

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Set ablaze: An explosion during the Capitol building attack by supporters of Donald Trump on January 6, 2021. FILE PHOTO

The House January 6 committee's final report asserts that Donald Trump criminally engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the lawful results of the 2020 presidential election and failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol, concluding an extraordinary 18-month investigation into the former President and the violent insurrection two years ago.

Mr. Trump "lit that fire," the committee's chairman, Mississippi Representative Bennie Thompson, writes.

The 814-page report released late on Thursday comes after the panel interviewed more than 1,000 witnesses, held 10 hearings and obtained more than a million pages of documents. The witnesses – ranging from many of Mr. Trump's closest aides to law enforcement to some of the rioters themselves – detailed Mr. Trump's "premeditated" actions in the weeks ahead of the attack and how his wide-ranging efforts to overturn his defeat directly influenced those who brutally pushed past the police and smashed through the windows and doors of the Capitol on January 6, 2021. The central cause was "one man": Donald Trump.

The insurrection gravely threatened democracy and "put the lives of American lawmakers at risk," the bipartisan nine-member panel concluded, offering so far the most definitive account of a dark chapter in modern American history. It functions not only as a compendium of the most dramatic moments of testimony from months of hearings, but also as a document meant to be preserved for generations.

In a foreword to the report, outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the findings should be a "clarion call to all Americans: to vigilantly guard our Democracy and to give our vote only to those dutiful in their defence of our Constitution".

The report's eight chapters tell the story largely as the panel's hearings did this summer – describing the many facets of the remarkable plan that Mr. Trump and his advisers devised to try and void President Joe Biden's victory.

In the two months between the election and the insurrection, the report says, "President Trump or his inner circle engaged in at least 200 apparent acts of public or private outreach, pressure, or condemnation, targeting either State legislators or State or local election administrators, to overturn State election results."

Mr. Trump's repeated, false claims of widespread voter fraud resonated with his supporters, the committee said, and were amplified on social media, building on the distrust of government he had fostered for his four years in office. And he did little to stop them when they resorted to violence and stormed the Capitol.

Xi reaffirms governing principle for Hong Kong

Associated Press
HONG KONG

Chinese President Xi Jinping reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to follow the "one country, two systems" governing principle for Hong Kong on Friday, saying it is the "best arrangement" to maintain the city's prosperity and stability.

The principle promises the former British colony the right to retain its own political, social and financial institutions for 50 years after returning to China's rule in 1997. But critics say it is becoming increasingly threadbare, especially after Beijing imposed the 2020 National Security Law, which jailed or silenced many dissidents.

Authorities in China take over production of medical supplies amid COVID surge

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China has requisitioned medical supplies production across the country as millions struggle to obtain basic drugs and testing kits in the face of a surge in COVID-19 cases.

Pharmacies in major cities have been stripped bare in the wake of the Chinese government's sudden decision to lift years of lockdowns, quarantines and mass testing. Authorities have urged those with mild symptoms to stay at home and take treatment into their own hands, leading to a run on everything from ibuprofen to rapid antigen tests.

To address nationwide shortages, more than a dozen Chinese pharmaceutical firms have been tapped by officials to help "secure supplies" of key drugs – a euphemism for requisitioning. At least 11 of 42 test kit makers whose products are licensed by China's medical regulators have had part of their production seized by the government or received orders from the state, local reports said.

Workers sort medicines at a logistics centre in Beijing on Friday. REUTERS

Additional staff

Wiz Biotech, a rapid antigen test maker in the southern city of Xiamen, confirmed on Thursday that all kits they produce will be requisitioned by the local government.

In Beijing, authorities have sent additional staff to six manufacturers of antigen kits to help them "increase production", the municipality said on its website. Across China, millions are struggling to get hold of basic medical supplies. On Thursday, a dozen pharmacies around the country reported fever medicine shortages.

3 killed in Paris as gunman opens fire

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Shooter's identity raised suspicions that it could have been racially motivated

A 69-year-old gunman opened fire at a Kurdish cultural centre and a hairdressing salon in central Paris on Friday, killing three people and injuring three others, witnesses and prosecutors said.

The shots caused panic in rue d'Enghien in the trendy 10th district, a bustling area of shops and restaurants that is home to a large Kurdish population.

Witnesses said that the gunman, described by the police as white and known for two previous attempted murders, initially targeted the Kurdish cultural centre before entering a nearby salon where he was arrested by the police. His motives remain unclear, but his identity and his target raised suspicions that the shooting could have been racially motivated.

May cut oil output post price cap: Russia

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Moscow could cut oil production by up to 7% in early 2023 following an oil price cap agreed by Western countries, a Russian Deputy Prime Minister said on Friday.

"At the start of next year, we could make a reduction of 5,00,000-7,00,000 barrels per day. For us, that's around 5-7%," Alexander Novak, who is in charge of Moscow's energy policy, said according to Russian news agencies.

He said Russia will not supply oil to countries that are enforcing a price cap – a part of punitive measures on Moscow following its offensive in Ukraine.

The price ceiling of $60 per barrel agreed by the EU, G-7 and Australia came into force in early December and seeks to restrict Russia's revenue. Introduced alongside an EU embargo on seaborne deliveries of Russian crude oil, the cap aims to ensure Russia cannot bypass the embargo by selling its oil to third countries at high prices.

Ukraine President back in Kyiv

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky sounded another defiant note on his return to his nation's capital on Friday following his wartime visit to the United States, saying his forces are "working toward victory".

Meanwhile, the Kremlin spokesperson said no reported Ukrainian peace plan can succeed without Moscow's demands of Ukraine recognising Russia's sovereignty over the Crimean Peninsula.

Fiji's Opposition accuses govt. of stoking fear to stay in power

Agence France-Presse
SUVA

PM had said that military mobilisation is to maintain 'law and order'

Fiji's Opposition on Friday accused the government of sowing "fear and chaos" in a bid to stay in power, as the military deployed to the streets of the capital Suva. Reporters witnessed a small number of military vehicles on patrol, a day after Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama announced their mobilisation to maintain "law and order".

The scene was otherwise calm with people going about last-minute Christmas shopping.

Former naval commander Bainimarama has led Fiji since a 2006 military putsch, and has refused to concede defeat following the polls on December 14.

The vote resulted in the Opposition – led by rival ex-coup leader and former prime minister Sitiveni "Rambo" Rabuka – cobbling together enough seats to form a coalition government.

Mr. Bainimarama's allies have delayed a parliament sitting to nominate Rabuka as the next Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bainimarama has cited unsubstantiated reports of post-vote ethnic violence as a reason to deploy the military and "fulfil our duty" to keep Fiji safe. Under Fiji's Constitution, the military has broad powers to intervene in politics and has been involved in four coups in the last 35 years.

City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi

No.: CMCB/WD/Tender/CR/07/2022-23 Date: 23.12.2022

Tender Notice

(Through e-procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka)

Item wise tender is invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999-2000, Rules of Act 2000 as per Karnataka Standard Tender Document – KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3 for carrying out total 04 packages of various development works in Rs. 89.91 lakhs under City Municipal Council Fund for the year 2022-23

Eligible tenderers can participate in the tender through e-procurement portal http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

1. Last date for submission of tender bids through e-procurement portal: 09.01.2023 up to 4.30 PM. **2**. Date of opening tender through e-procurement: 11.01.2023 after 11.00 AM through online. If the said date is declared a holiday then the next day will be considered. **3**. Time period for completion of work: 90 days. **4**. Regarding uploading of tender contact e-portal Helpline 080-22485867 or 080-25501216. Further details can be obtained from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and the Office of Municipal Commissioner City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi / Assistant Executive Engineer, City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi. **5**. Tenderers should comply with all the conditions in the Tender Documents.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner,
City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/smg/No.166/12/mca/22-23/1538

Office of the Principal Director,
Karnataka State Audit and Accounts Department

3rd floor, `A' Block, TTMC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagara, Bengaluru-560 027. Phone No:- 080- 22214817, Fax No: 080- 22216500
E-mail: controllerstateaccounts@yahoo.com / controllerksaad@gmail.com

No: Ra.Le.Pa. 16 Pra.Tend.Ja. 2022-23 Date: 22-12-2022

SHORT- TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement only from the Registered Agencies, for providing **Seven (07) vehicles to this Department, hired on annual rate contract basis.**

1)	EMD Amount:	**Rs.84,000/-.**
2)	Tender Publishing Date:	**23.12.2022.**
3)	Last Date & Time for submission of Bid:	**06.01.2023 (upto 4.00 p.m.)**
4)	Date &Time for opening of Technical Bid: Commercial Bid:	**07.01.2023 at 4.00 p.m. 13.01.2023 at 4.00 p.m.**

Sd/- For Principal Director,
Karnataka State Audit & Accounts Department,
Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3699/22-23

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Phone: 080-25586550 / 25586399 Fax: 080-25587020 E-mail: info@ksicsilk.com

No.: KSIC/PD/ES/01/2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022

TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC ARTICLE SURVEILLANCE FOR KSIC SHOWROOMS

Sealed and super scribed tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturer for supply and installation of Electronic Article Surveillance for KSIC showrooms.

The tender document may be obtained from The General Manager (Procurement) either in person or by post on payment of **Rs.200/-** by cash/DD. Last date and time for submission of the tender along with EMD of **Rs.9,900/-** by DD in favour of "KSIC Ltd.," payable at Bengaluru within **11.01.2023** up to **3.00 P.M.** The Technical Bids will be opened on same day **11.01.2023** at **04.30 P.M.**

Further details can be had from office of the Undersigned during working hours either personally or over phone 080-25586550

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (Proc)

DIPR/CP/3688/AKAR/2022-23

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Shivamogga

Tender Notice No.:APMC/S/DW/2260/22-23 D: 16.12.2022

Brief Tender Notice

(Through e-procurement Portal of GoK)

Tender is invited from Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Shivamogga through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999-2000, Act 2000 Rules as per Standard Tender Document-KW-4 from the eligible contractors registered with PWD for construction of Commercial complex at the newly created site no Z -1,2,3 adjacent to Sagar Road at the main market premises of the committee

Total amount of works: Rs. 218.21 lakhs. E.M.D. Amount: Rs. 3,27,000.00. Last date for submission of filled tenders through e-portal: 27.01.2023 up to 4.30 PM.

Technical bids will be opened in the office of the Secretary on 30.01.2023 at 11.00 AM.

Pre-bid meeting for the said Tender will be conducted in the office of the Secretary on 13.01.2023 at 11.00 AM.

Regarding uploading of tender e-portal Helpline 080-22485867 or 080-25501216 can be contacted. For further details visit www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Shivamogga / / Assistant Executive Engineer, No. 3, M.D.P., Sub Division, Shivamogga during office hours.

Sd/- Secretary,
APMC, Shivamogga

Sd/- Administrator
APMC, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/no.161/12/22-23/1539

ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ:08352-277816, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್:08352-277817
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇ.ವಿ/ವಿಜ/ಇಪ್ರಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2022-23/2500 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.12.2022

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಇವರು 2021-22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು : (1) ದೇ. ಹಿಪ್ಪರಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಕೆಸರಟ್ಟಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಕಾಲೋನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು : (1) ದೇ. ಹಿಪ್ಪರಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಅಂಬಳನೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಕಾಲೋನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ,
ವಿಜಯಪುರ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/693/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022-23

INBRIEF

Flipkart, PhonePe announce separation of ownership

Flipkart and PhonePe announced full ownership separation of digital payments platform PhonePe. As part of the transaction, existing Flipkart Singapore and PhonePe Singapore shareholders, led by Walmart, have purchased shares directly in PhonePe India, thus completing a process started earlier this year to make PhonePe a fully India-domiciled company. Walmart would remain the majority shareholder of both the business groups, as per a Flipkart communique.

HDFC secures $400-mn IFC loan to finance 'green' houses

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has extended a $400-million loan to mortgage major HDFC for financing green affordable housing units, as part of theirs efforts towards supporting climate goals. The companies said this loan will help close the urban housing gap and improve access to climate-smart affordable homes by boosting green housing. Since 2010, IFC has lent more than $1.7 billion to domestic housing finance firms for on-lending to retail buyers and developers of affordable and green housing. PTI

Equitas SFB's Vasudevan withdraws resignation as MD

Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) MD and CEO P.N. Vasudevan has withdrawn his resignation. The SFB said Mr. Vasudevan had decided to continue in the role in response to suggestions from the Board. Accordingly, the process of identifying his successor stands terminated. "I remain committed to pursue our mission of creating the most valuable bank for all stakeholders through happy employees," he wrote in a letter to chairman Arun Ramanathan.

Sensex falls 1.6% on fears of a COVID bout, more Fed hikes

Stocks fall for a fourth straight session after robust U.S. economic data point to Federal Reserve extending its interest rate increases; China's COVID-19 surge dampens global economic outlook

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Stocks fell for a fourth straight session on Friday, with the S&P BSE Sensex sliding 1.6% as investors braced for more interest rate increases by the U.S. Federal Reserve and concerns grew about a fresh bout of COVID-19 cases in the wake of a surge in infections in China.

The Sensex fell 980.93 points to end the week at 59,845.29 points. Losses were led by Tata Steel (4.97%), Tata Motors (4.07%), State Bank of India (3.27%), Bajaj Finserv (3.07%), Reliance (2.96%) and Wipro (2.84%).

Volatility rises: China's COVID surge has dampened the appetite for risk, says Geojit's Nair. FILE PHOTO

The NSE Nifty-50 index slid 1.77% to 17,806.80.

"Globally markets were losing their grip post the Fed announcement which hinted at further rate hikes," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. "Robust U.S. economic data such as better-than-expected Q3 GDP... along with healthier jobless claims fuelled the worries fanning the volatility," he added.

"The spike in COVID cases across China has dampened the appetite for risk as it instilled fears of another global COVID outbreak," Mr. Nair observed.

"Indications are pointing towards the prevailing corrective move to extend further, with a marginal rebound in between," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd. "Meanwhile, mixed global cues will keep the volatility high; we recommend keeping a check on leveraged positions and preferring a hedged approach," he added.

Global slowdown not mirrored in India, Finance Ministry avers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's economic momentum has been sustained well in the third quarter and there is cause for cautious optimism as the slowdown in global economic activity is not mirrored in the performance of India's high-frequency indicators, the Finance Ministry said on Friday.

"Private consumption, bolstered by pent-up demand, reached its highest among all second quarters during the past 11 years at 58.4% of GDP," the ministry said in its monthly economic review. "The investment rate also rose to be the highest among all the second quarters since 2012-13 at 34.6% of GDP, hinting at the beginnings of an investment cycle."

'Inflation easing'

The easing of retail and wholesale inflation in November to 5.88% and 5.85%, respectively, along with a moderation in households' inflation expectations as per a RBI survey, augured well for augmenting consumption in rural and urban regions in the upcoming months, the ministry noted.

The overall economic outlook 'as we head into 2023' would be complicated further by global economic developments, the ministry said, underlining that vigilance was a critical aspect in maintaining India's external resilience.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,845	-1.61
US Dollar	82.82	-0.04
Gold	54,853	-0.70
Brent oil	83.64	2.39

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3642.20	-226.35
Adani Ports	794.10	-62.80
Apollo Hosp	4700.15	-81.55
Asian Paints	3057.90	-30.65
Axis Bank	906.60	-12.95
Bajaj Auto	3541.80	-59.05
Bajaj Finserv	1497.05	-47.25
Bajaj Finance	6374.60	-116.05
Bharti Airtel	808.65	-7.95
BPCL	325.10	-2.80
Britannia Ind	4331.90	-59.55
Cipla	1119.15	-3.30
Coal India	215.05	-7.65
Divis Lab	3498.45	2.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4310.45	-38.80
Eicher Motors	3113.65	-92.40
Grasim Ind	1709.10	-35.75
HCL Tech	1030.60	-8.50
HDFC	2623.05	-21.40
HDFC Bank	1597.65	-14.40
HDFC Life	565.45	-12.40
Hero MotoCorp	2636.85	-90.85
Hindalco	429.55	-25.95
Hind Unilever	2621.10	-24.25
ICICI Bank	878.90	-11.75
IndusInd Bank	1147.85	-32.30
Infosys	1497.10	-24.95
ITC	326.70	-5.75
JSW Steel	727.85	-9.70
Kotak Bank	1821.95	-4.10
L&T	2062.75	-47.20
M&M	1224.60	-9.35
Maruti Suzuki	8141.60	-192.75
NestleIndia	20132.75	-173.85
NTPC	163.00	-2.90
ONGC	139.80	-2.45
PowerGrid Corp	211.25	-3.75
Reliance Ind	2502.20	-75.60
SBI Life	1224.60	-20.15
State Bank	574.00	-19.40
Sun Pharma	1001.55	-9.10
TataConsumerProduct	779.00	-19.65
Tata Motors	378.35	-16.10
Tata Steel	102.25	-5.40
TCS	3228.35	-31.35
Tech Mahindra	995.75	-20.10
Titan	2483.05	0.05
UltraTech Cement	6909.40	-103.00
UPL	711.20	-18.15
Wipro	377.65	-11.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.66	82.98
Euro	87.76	88.11
British Pound	99.82	100.22
Japanese Yen (100)	62.32	62.57
Chinese Yuan	11.83	11.88
Swiss Franc	88.87	89.22
Singapore Dollar	61.23	61.48
Canadian Dollar	60.75	61.01
Malaysian Ringitt	18.67	18.76
Australian Dollar	55.44	55.66

Source:Indian Bank

Russia buoys oil, says it may cut output over price cap

Reuters
NEW YORK

Oil prices rose by $2 per barrel on Friday after Moscow said it could cut crude output in response to the G7 price cap on Russian exports, putting the market on track for a second week of gains.

Russia may cut oil output by 5%-7% in early 2023 as it responds to price caps, RIA news agency cited Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak as saying.

Engineering goods exports to China slid 40% in Nov.: EEPC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After contracting for five successive months, India's engineering exports, which account for about a quarter of its total goods exports, are likely to continue to see lower orders across key markets, including Europe and China, according to EEPC India.

Engineering exports to China fell 40% year-on-year in November though their overall moderation from November 2021 level was only 0.3%. The apex engineering exporters' body expects the trend to stay given the spike in COVID cases there along with worsening realty crisis.

Cumulatively, these exports have declined by 1.8% between April and November to $70.72 billion, constituting about 56% of the $127-billion target set by the government for the sector's exports in 2022-23. But shipments to China have dropped by a far steeper 58.2% to $1.74 billion in the same period.

"Since the record post-COVID recovery last fiscal, global demand has again exhibited signs of distress in the current fiscal," said EEPC India chairman Arun Kumar Garodia.

"Demand continues to remain subdued in Europe primarily due to high energy prices and lower manufacturing activity."

While the withdrawal of the export duty on steel items may restore iron and steel exports, exporters expect the U.S. Federal Reserve's monetary tightening policy to hit interest-sensitive spending across the world.

Google takes CCI to NCLAT over Android penalty order

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Google has approached the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) challenging the CCI's order on unfair business practices in Android mobile device ecosystem, a company spokesperson said on Friday.

In October, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had slapped a steep penalty of ₹1,337.76 crore on Internet giant Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in relation to Android mobile devices and ordered the Internet search major to cease and desist from various unfair business practices.

Adani to control almost 65% of NDTV as founders sell stake

Reuters
BENGALURU

Billionaire Gautam Adani will control 64.7% of New Delhi Television Ltd. as the company's founders have decided to sell most of their shares to his conglomerate, four months after he initiated a takeover for the news network.

Mr. Adani already owns 37% of NDTV through an open offer and acquisition of a company owned by founders Radhika and Prannoy Roy, despite several unsuccessful attempts by NDTV to block the takeover citing regulatory restrictions on moving shares.

The Roys said on Friday they would sell a 27.26% stake in NDTV to the AMG Media Network, an entity owned by Mr. Adani, filings by NDTV showed.

Gautam Adani

"The AMG Media Network, after the recent open offer, is now the single largest shareholder in NDTV. Consequently, with mutual agreement we have decided to divest most of our shares in NDTV," the founders, who would retain a combined 5% stake, said.

Retail sector saw 19% rise in sales during Apr.-Nov.: RAI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's retail industry saw a 19% rise in sales over the pre-pandemic levels during the April-November period riding on the back of strong performance of segments such as quick service restaurants and footwear, Retailers Association of India (RAI) said.

Region wise, the Eastern part clocked the highest growth at 21% year-on-year, RAI said.

"Retail in India is expected to grow better than all other key markets across the world," said RAI Chairman Bijou Kurien on 2023 outlook. "Omnichannel retail has become the norm for retailers."

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Upper Tunga Project Division, Shimoga
Ph: 08182-254832 E-Mail: eeutpsmg@gmail.com

1.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.50/2022-23 Dated:20.12.2022. **2**.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.51/2022-23 Dated:20.12.2022. **3**.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.52/2022-23 Dated:21.12.2022. **4**.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.53/2022-23 Dated:21.12.2022. **5**.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.54/2022-23 Dated:21.12.2022. **6**.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.55/2022-23 Dated:21.12.2022. **7**.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.56/2022-23 Dated:21.12.2022. **8**.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.42/Call-2/2022-23 Dated:21.12. 2022. **9**.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.44/Call-2/2022-23 Dated:21.12.2022. **10**.No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.45/Call-2/2022-23 Dated:21.12.2022.

SHORT TERM PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement only)

On Behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Under signed invites tender Through e- portal system from Eligible contractors for three works coming under upper Tunga Project, Under Head of Account 4701.(Total 30 No of works)

1) Apprx. Amount put to tender as per estimation is Rs 8.42 to Rs 67.75 lakhs (Excluding GST) 2) Last date for questions/clarifications regarding the tender: 26.12.2022 upto 5.30 p.m 3) Date for Submission of filled tenders from: 20.12.2022 to 29.12.2022 up to 5.30 P.M. (For TN TN 50& 51) 4) Date for Submission of filled tenders from: 21.12.2022 to 29.12.2022 up to 5.30 P.M. (For TN52 to 45/Call-2)

Further details on date of opening the Tender /Detail of work E.M.D. Amount/Terms and Conditions of the tender/Class of Contractor, Etc, can be obtained in the Tender Notification or from the office of the Under signed during office hours or in website Https:\\eproc.Karanataka.Gov.in for further details the office of the Undersigned can be contacted during office hours on phone No. 08182-254832 Information can be obtained through https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL,U.T.P., Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/no.153/12/22-23/1520

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇ.ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ.ಸ.ನೈ.ವಿ:ಮಂ:ಟೆಂಡರ್:ಎಇ–1:2022–23/2015 ದಿ: 23.12.2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ Tender document ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ವಿವರವು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ:

ಬಂಟ್ವಾಳ ತಾಲೂಕು–1 – ರೂ.175.42ಲಕ್ಷ

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು Download ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.12.2022** ರಿಂದ **02.01.2023**. (2) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ**. (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.01.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0824–2951583ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ,
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No. BMICAPA/CLU-03/50/2021-22/1471 Date: 23.12.2022

PUBLICATION NOTICE
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Ms|| Sri Ranga Educational trust represented by its Managing trustee Smt.Lalitha Lakshmi have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agricultural"** Zone to **"Educational Use"** purpose under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining to Sy.no:33/RS/1 Extent 0Acre-23.07.52 Guntas, Sy.no:37/ RS Extent 03Acre -23.05.92Guntas, 32/RS/2 Extent 0Acre-36.00.16Guntas, 33/RS/2 Extent OAcre-32.01.44Guntas, 35/ RS /2 Extent 01Acre-00.01.44Guntas, 36/RS Extent 0Acre-19.10.88Guntas, 34/RS/3 Extent 0Acre-24.01.76Guntas, 35/RS/1 Extent 0Acre-08.01.60Guntas of Madapura doddi Village, Aathaguru Hobli, Maddur Taluk and Sy.no:86/2 Extent 0Acre-24.04Guntas and Sy.no:86/4 Extent 0Acre -14.04Guntas of Belakere Village, Maluru Hobli, Channapatna Taluk. As per the approved Master plan for Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Local Planning Area. The proposed land is earmarked for "Agriculture" purpose. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. At the time of development and after establishment, there will be job opportunities to localities.
2. If the Educational layout is established, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
3. If the planned layout is established, public are benefited with good roads.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 16 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 16 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/3708/2022-23

Kannan Jubilee Coffee plans to invest ₹42-cr. on expansion

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Kannan Jubilee Coffee Company plans to double retail presence to 140 outlets in four years from the current 70, according to J. Shanker Krishnan, partner of Kannan's Kappi.

According to Mr. Krishnan, the expansion would be undertaken mainly through franchisees.

While the existing retail outlets were based in the South, more stores would be opened not only in Tamil Nadu but also cities such as Kolkata and Delhi.

The firm would also foray into brewing by setting

up vending machines in institutions. The expansion plans would involve an investment of ₹40 crore to ₹42 crore over the next seven years, he said.

The company is exporting instant coffee and looking for partners in other countries to expand the overseas business.

TVS Motor aims to tap enthusiasts at its bike music festival

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company will be showcasing a plethora of products for motorcycle enthusiasts at the second edition of TVS MotoSoul, a biking festival to be held at Goa on March 3 and 4.

The festival would feature events concerning art and culture, tech talks and new products, said the company in a statement.

TVS Motor would showcase the expansion of the premium motorcycle segment with an exclusive display of products. Stunt riders from the house of Petronas TVS Racing

would display skills while participating in a stunt competition.

The event would also host a gathering of distinguished TVS premium two-wheeler customers, including record holders and a platform for India's top custom-bike builders to exhibit their creations.

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NERVOUS EXCITEMENT

I didn't sleep much thinking about the auction: Curran

An "overwhelmed" Sam Curran on Friday said he endured a sleepless and nervous night ahead of the IPL mini-auction, where he became the most expensive player in the history of the T20 league's auction after fetching a whopping ₹18.5 crore bid from Punjab Kings.

UNBELIEVABLE!

Such a weird feeling watching an auction for yourself: Green

"I am pinching myself that this has all happened," Green was quoted as saying by *cricket.com.au* after fetching a record price. "It is such a weird feeling watching an auction for yourself. I was shaking when the final call was confirmed. I have always been a huge fan of the IPL and it is going to be so cool to be a part of it."

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Finch not surprised by Super Kings breaking the bank for Stokes

"I think Chennai have a history of going after experienced players, knowing what they want. And when you complement that with the rest of the squad, it is so balanced when you throw that world class all-rounder (Stokes) in there," said Aaron Finch about Chennai Super Kings signing the Englishman.

LET'S GO!

Really grateful for this opportunity to come to the IPL in 2023: Brook

"Hi, Orange Army! I am really excited and grateful for this opportunity to come to the IPL this year. I am really looking forward to play for the Sunrisers Hyderabad. I have heard the atmosphere is unbelievable. One of the best grounds in the competition... so, I am really excited for us to be back to Uppal," Brook said.

Pant, Shreyas put India in control

The two put on 159 for the fifth wicket to revive the innings after the team was reduced to 94 for four; the visitors take 87-run lead

INDIA IN BANGLADESH

N. Sudarshan
MIRPUR

Rishabh Pant bats the way people in novels live. There is passion, joy, danger and despair and this cycle of adventure keeps repeating.

On day two of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium here, Pant took everyone on another roller-coaster, scoring 93 glorious runs (104b, 7x4, 5x6), as India tightened its grip with a handsome 87-run lead. At close on Friday, the hosts, in their second innings, reached seven for no loss.

Tilting the scales

Where the match was delicately poised with India at 94 for four, Pant's 159-run partnership (181b) with Shreyas Iyer (87, 105b, 10x4, 2x6) for the fifth wicket turned the match India's way.

It wasn't as if Bangladesh didn't have opportunities; Pant and Shreyas were both dropped in the cordon early on, albeit tough chances. When Shreyas was on 21, wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan fluffed an easy stumping off Shakib Al Hasan.

But for a majority of the time the two were at the crease, they provided superficial escape, like how a good book or a movie would, from the travails of those who batted earlier.

Bangladesh had, in fact, aced the morning session, with left-arm spinner Taijul Islam (25-3-74-4) rocking the Indian top-order. A tentative K.L. Rahul and Shubman Gill were both trapped in front before Cheteshwar Pujara was out caught at short-leg.

The home side broke for lunch with a spring in its step, and burst back onto the sunlit field bustling with energy. Nine balls in, speedster Taskin Ahmed forced Virat Kohli to poke at an away-going delivery and had him caught behind.

But those were the last of the good memories as Shreyas and Pant plundered runs, with the post-lunch session fetching 140 off 25 overs.

Initially, Bangladesh set deep fields to Pant, especially on the leg-side, to limit the southpaw's brisk scoring. They peppered Shreyas with short deliveries, a nod to the Mumbai batter's perceived weakness.

But both tactics failed. Pant was happy picking bowlers off his legs for ones, twos and the occasional boundary while Shreyas looked in control, pulling Taskin in front of square and clipping one off his hips for back-to-back boundaries.

Game-changer: Pant's adventurous 93 quickly altered the course of the India innings. AP

Pant soon found his attacking mojo, using the feet expertly to meet the ball well outside the crease, as he smashed offie Mehidy Hasan for two sixes over long-on (both one-handed), despatched Shakib over long-off and deposited Taijul in the deep mid-wicket region for a six and a four.

Insult to injury

Shreyas, let off by Nurul, added insult to injury by hitting Shakib for back-to-back boundaries before smashing Mehidy wide of long-on for a maximum to get close to his fifty. He then chanced his arms against pacers Taskin and Khaled Ahmed, hitting the duo for fours to bring up 150 runs of the stand.

The two eventually fell within 18 runs of each other – Pant for his sixth score in the 90s to go with five centuries, and Shreyas for his second successive number in the 80s – but not before shifting the balance of the match.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH — 1ST INNINGS
227 in 73.5 overs

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
K.L. Rahul lbw b Taijul 10 *(45b, 1x4)*, Shubman Gill lbw b Taijul 20 *(39b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Cheteshwar Pujara c Mominul b Taijul 24 *(55b, 2x4)*, Virat Kohli c Nurul b Taskin 24 *(73b, 3x4)*, Rishabh Pant c Nurul b Mehidy 93 *(104b, 7x4, 5x6)*, Shreyas Iyer lbw b Shakib 87 *(105b, 10x4, 2x6)*, Axar Patel c Najmul b Shakib 4 *(11b, 1x4)*, R. Ashwin lbw b Shakib 12 *(30b, 2x4)*, Jaydev Unadkat (not out) 14 *(32b, 2x4)*, Umesh Yadav c Litton b Taijul 14 *(13b, 3x4)*, Mohd. Siraj st. Nurul b Shakib 7 *(15b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-3, w-1): 5; Total (in 86.3 overs): 314.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-27 (Rahul, 13.1 overs), 2-38 (Gill, 15.1), 3-72 (Pujara, 30.4), 4-94 (Kohli, 37.4), 5-253 (Pant, 67.5), 6-264 (Axar, 70.3), 7-271 (Shreyas, 72.4), 8-286 (Ashwin, 80.1), 9-305 (Umesh, 83.3).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Taskin 15-2-58-1, Shakib 19.3-3-79-4, Khaled 10-1-41-0, Taijul 25-3-74-4, Mehidy 17-2-61-1.

BANGLADESH — 2ND INNINGS
Najmul Hossain (batting) 5 *(25b, 1x4)*, Zakir Hasan (batting) 2 *(11b)*; Total (for no loss in six overs): 7.

INDIA BOWLING
Umesh 2-1-4-0, Ashwin 3-1-3-0, Unadkat 1-1-0-0.

> I went there in a tough situation. It (Rishabh's innings) was a phenomenal knock. He is such an aggressive batter. In the end, it takes two to tango

> It does play in the mind of a batter when people from outside talk about issues and it's important as a player to turn a deaf ear to them
> **SHREYAS IYER**

Sam Curran becomes the costliest in history as overseas players fetch the big bucks

IPL MINI-AUCTION

Amol Karhadkar
KOCHI

Overseas players are usually the flavour at the Indian Premier League (IPL) mini-auctions. The trend continued at the 16th Player Auction on Friday.

The top five costliest players – and seven of the 10 most expensive bids – were foreigners as the 10 franchises splurged a combined amount of ₹167 crore on 80 players.

As expected, the top three buys turned out to be the all-rounder trio of Sam Curran (₹18.50 crore, Punjab Kings), Cameron Green (₹17.50 crore, Mumbai Indians) and Ben Stokes (₹16.25 crore, Chennai Super Kings). In fact, all three of them attracted bids that were equal to or higher than the previous highest bid of ₹16.25 crore for Chris Morris by Rajasthan Royals in 2021.

While Harry Brook (₹13.25 crore, Sunrisers Hyderabad) emerged as the first entrant in the nine-crore bracket in his maiden auction, Caribbean Nicholas Pooran walked away with a whopping sum (16 crore, Lucknow Super Giants).

Mayank Agarwal (₹8.25 crore, Sunrisers), the Punjab Kings' captain in IPL 2022, attracted the highest bid for an Indian cricketer. Uncapped pacers Shivam Mavi (₹6 crore, Gujarat Titans) and Mukesh Kumar (₹5.5 crore, Delhi Capitals) were the other Indians in the top-10 buys.

The trend of overseas cricketers dominating the mini-auction was not surprising for many, though. "It is not surprising, it is to be expected. As long as this format continues, that is going to be the trend," said Venky Mysore, Kolkata Knight Riders' chief executive. "Because the good Indian players are rarely released to a mini-auction, it is foreign players (who are sought-after). That imbalance will be there."

> We have been called the Dad's Army, but actually we have gone for experience
> **K.S. VISWANATHAN**
> CSK CEO on buying Stokes

While the price tags may have raised many eyebrows, it was business as usual in the auction room. In fact, a few franchises were expecting the ₹20 crore barrier to be breached for the first time.

"The history suggests that in smaller auctions, the prices can be significantly high. We saw that again. It is the supply-demand scenario," said Mike Hesson, Royal Challengers Bangalore's Director of Cricket Operations.

"We knew Curran and Stokes would be well beyond our reach. We thought they would go close to ₹20 crore. There is no surprise there. A few teams have freed up cash to have a go at them."

Once the big birds ate into the riches, not too many Indians, especially uncapped domestic cricketers, had a windfall. Five domestic cricketers became crorepatis on the day. Besides Mavi and Mukesh, Jammu & Kashmir all-rounder Vivrant Sharma (₹2.6 crore, Sunrisers), Himachal Pradesh's Mayank Dagar (₹1.8 crore, Sunrisers) and Andhra wicketkeeper-batter K.S. Bharat (₹1.2 crore, Gujarat Titans) also earned eight-digit amounts.

The dug-outs

A look at the teams after the IPL mini-auction on Friday:

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
M.S. Dhoni, Ambati Rayudu, Devon Conway, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Subhranshu Senapati, Dwaine Pretorius, Mitchell Santner, Moeen Ali, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Deepak Chahar, Maheesh Theekshana, Matheesha Pathirana, Mukesh Choudhary, Prashant Solanki, Simarjeet Singh, Tushar Deshpande.
2023 auction picks: Ben Stokes, Kyle Jamieson, Nishant Sindhu, Ajinkya Rahane, Bhagath Varma, Ajay Mandal, Shaik Rasheed.

DELHI CAPITALS
Rishabh Pant, David Warner, Prithvi Shaw, Ripal Patel, Rovman Powell, Sarfaraz Khan, Yash Dhull, Aman Khan, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav, Mitchell Marsh, Anrich Nortje, Chetan Sakariya, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Khaleel Ahmed, Kuldeep Yadav, Lungi Ngidi, Mustafizur Rahman, Praveen Dubey, Vicky Ostwal.
2023 auction picks: Mukesh Kumar, Rilee Rossouw, Manish Pandey, Phil Salt, Ishant Sharma.

GUJARAT TITANS
Hardik Pandya, Abhinav Manohar, David Miller, B. Sai Sudharsan, Matthew Wade, Shubman Gill, Wriddhiman Saha, Rahul Tewatia, Vijay Shankar, Alzarri Joseph, Darshan Nalkande, Jayant Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Noor Ahmad, Pradeep Sangwan, Rashid Khan, R. Sai Kishore, Yash Dayal.
2023 auction picks: Shivam Mavi, Joshua Little, Kane Williamson, K.S. Bharat, Mohit Sharma, Odean Smith, Urvil Patel.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Shreyas Iyer, Nitish Rana, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rinku Singh, Andre Russell, Anukul Roy, Sunil Narine, Venkatesh Iyer, Harshit Rana, Lockie Ferguson, Shardul Thakur, Tim Southee, Umesh Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy.
2023 auction picks: Shakib Al Hasan, David Wiese, N. Jagadeesan, Vaibhav Arora, Mandeep Singh, Litton Das, Kulwant Khejroliya, Suyash Sharma.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
K.L. Rahul, Quinton de Kock, Ayush Badoni, Manan Vohra, Deepak Hooda, Karan Sharma, Marcus Stoinis, K. Gowtham, Krunal Pandya, Kyle Mayers, Avesh Khan, Mark Wood, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, Ravi Bishnoi.
2023 auction picks: Nicholas Pooran, Daniel Sams, Amit Mishra, Romario Shepherd, Naveen Ul Haq, Jaydev Unadkat, Yash Thakur, Swapnil Singh, Yudhvir Charak, Prerak Mankad.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma, Dewald Brevis, Ishan Kishan, Ramandeep Singh, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Tim David, Tristan Stubbs, Akash Madhwal, Arjun Tendulkar, Arshad Khan, Hrithik Shokeen, Kumar Kartikeya, Jason Behrendorff, Jasprit Bumrah, Jofra Archer.
2023 auction picks: Cameron Green, Jhye Richardson, Piyush Chawla, Nehal Wadhera, Raghav Goyal, Vishnu Vinod, Duan Jansen, Shams Mulani.

PUNJAB KINGS
Shikhar Dhawan, Atharva Taide, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, M. Shahrukh Khan, Jitesh Sharma, Jonny Bairstow, Prabhsimran Singh, Liam Livingstone, Raj Bawa, Rishi Dhawan, Arshdeep Singh, Baltej Singh, Harpreet Brar, Kagiso Rabada, Nathan Ellis, Rahul Chahar.
2023 auction picks: Sam Curran, Sikandar Raza, Harpreet Bhatia, Shivam Singh, Vidwath Kaverappa, Mohit Rathee.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Sanju Samson, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Jos Buttler, Riyan Parag, Shimron Hetmyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.C. Cariappa, Kuldeep Sen, Kuldip Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Obed McCoy, Prasidh Krishna, R. Ashwin, Trent Boult, Yuzvendra Chahal.
2023 auction picks: Jason Holder, Adam Zampa, Joe Root, Donovan Ferreira, K.M. Asif, Abdul Basith, Akash Vashisht, Kunal Rathore, M. Ashwin.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE
Faf du Plessis, Virat Kohli, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Finn Allen, Rajat Patidar, Suyash Prabhudessai, David Willey, Glenn Maxwell, Harshal Patel, Mahipal Lomror, Shahbaz Ahmed, Wanindu Hasaranga, Akash Deep, Josh Hazlewood, Karn Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Siddarth Kaul.
2023 auction picks: Will Jacks, Reece Topley, Rajan Kumar, Avinash Singh, Sonu Yadav, Himanshu Sharma, Manoj Bhandage.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Aiden Markram, Abdul Samad, Glenn Phillips, Rahul Tripathi, Abhishek Sharma, Washington Sundar, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Marco Jansen, Kartik Tyagi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T. Natarajan, Umran Malik.
2023 auction picks: Harry Brook, Mayank Agarwal, Heinrich Klaasen, Vivrant Sharma, Adil Rashid, Mayank Dagar, Akeal Hosein, Mayank Markande, Upendra Singh Yadav, Sanvir Singh, Anmolpreet Singh, Samarth Vyas, Nitish Kumar Reddy.

Newly introduced Impact Player rule has a big say in auction proceedings

Beneficiary: Manish was picked by Capitals keeping in mind the Impact Player rule. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Amol Karhadkar
KOCHI

While the all-rounders ate into a major chunk at the mini-auction, the dynamics were slightly altered due to the introduction of the Impact Player.

Starting with IPL 2023 – chairman Arun Dhumal described "innovation being the backbone of IPL" – the tournament will see each team being allowed to use an Impact Player for all the games. The substitute player, primarily an Indian except when a team fields less than four foreigners, can be introduced at any point during a game.

"It allows us to look at specialists. Instead of looking at an all-rounder, we can now look at replacing a bowler with a batter. That gives us a little bit of flexibility in picking specialists for each spot," said Brian Lara, Sunrisers Hyderabad's head coach. Harry Brook benefited as a result with Sunrisers going for the England batter to the hilt.

He wasn't the only one. Veteran batter Manish Pandey (₹2.7 crore, Delhi Capitals) has been signed primarily with an eye on resurrecting the innings as an Impact Player in case of a collapse.

Some of the franchises have also bought domestic cricketers at base price with an eye on the Impact Player regulations. For instance, Royal Challengers Bangalore added Himanshu Sharma for the finisher's role, if required.

The Impact Player experiment was tried out in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. While the domestic T20 championship required the substitution to be made before the end of the 14th over, the IPL will allow the introduction of the Impact Player at any point during a game.

"It is similar to the super-sub we had (in ODIs). It isn't a replica," said Pragyan Ojha, the former India spinner who is now a member of the IPL governing council.

"It's a good thing. I believe sport has to evolve. It creates excitement. A lot of thought has been put into the rule to ensure it adds a lot of value."

Andhra upsets Tamil Nadu's apple cart, snatches victory in a thrilling finish

The home team, pursuing 203 for a victory, loses the plot from 155 for three to go down to the spirited visitors by eight runs; Shoaib and Sasikanth share the spoils; Washington's fighting half-century goes in vain

RANJI TROPHY

S. Dinakar
COIMBATORE

Tension mounted. The final day's chase could go either way. The team that held its nerve would win.

Eventually, it was Andhra, led courageously by skipper Hanuma Vihari, that refused to wilt. Vihari had instilled his men with belief. Tamil Nadu, pursuing 203 for a win, lost the plot from 155 for three to go down to the spirited Andhra by eight runs.

Swirling emotions

Even as emotions swirled around, the visitors celebrated the come-from-behind Ranji win on a sporting pitch of good bounce and carry at the Ramakrishna ground on Friday.

Washington Sundar, who batted with as much skill as heart, stood crestfallen as the dust settled on day four.

With only the last man Sandeep Warrier for company, Washington (65, 118b, 5x4), who had been batting with considerable restraint, was forced to play the fatal pull shot off seamer K.V. Sasikanth.

Tamil Nadu was ambushed by Shoaib Md. Khan, who bowled his off-spinners, the delivery that came in with the arm, and the one that held its line, capably to finish a with match-winning six for 69.

Earlier he had cut, pulled and swept his way to a 47-ball 28 that took the target beyond 200.

And the lively Sasikanth, bowled with control and employed the short-pitched ball judiciously, to return figures of four for 47.

Sai Kishore scalps five

For the host, left-arm spinner Sai Kishore's five for 88 in Andhra's second innings score of 250, went unrewarded. He struck as much with turn as bounce and dismissed key man Ricky Bhui (76, 143b, 7x4, 1x6) with a quicker, straighter delivery.

The scores:
Andhra — 1st innings: 297.
Tamil Nadu — 1st innings: 345.
Andhra — 2nd innings: Abhishek Reddy c Jagadeesan b Warrier 10, Hanuma Vihari c Jagadeesan b Vijay Shankar 26, Sheikh Rasheed run out 21, Ricky Bhui b Sai Kishore 76, Karan Shinde c Sai Sudarshan b Washinton Sundar 13, U.M.S. Girinath c Sai Sudharsan b Sai Kishore 18, Shoab Md. Khan c Indrajith b Washington 28, Nitish Kumar Reddy lbw b Sai Kishore 9, K.V. Sasikanth (not out) 19, Lalith Mohan c Washington b Sai Kishore 16, B. Ayappa c Jagadeesan b Sai Kishore 0, Extras (b-5, lb-2. nb-5, w-2): 14; Total (in 76.4 overs): 250.

Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-52, 3-78, 4-106, 5-162, 6185, 7-205, 8-227, 9-250.

Tamil Nadu bowling: L. Vignesh 4-0-20-0, Warrier 17-253-1, Sai Kishore 28.4-4-88-5, Vijay Shankar 6-0-19-1. Washington 17-2-52-2, Ajith 4-0-11-0

Tamil Nadu — 2nd innings: Sai Sudharsan c Vihari b Shoaib 37, N. Jagadeesan c Shinde b Sasiknth 14, B. Aparajith b Shoaib 19, B. Indrajith lbw b Shoaib 43, Washington Sundar c Bhui b Sasikanth 65, Vijay Shankar c & b Shoaib 2, Pradosh Ranjan Paul c Shinde b Sasikanth 0, Sai Kishore lbw b Shoaib 1, L. Vignesh b Sasikanth 2, Ajith Ram c Girinath b Shoaib 6, Sandeep Warrier (not out) 0;

Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-3): 5; Total (in 56.2 overs): 194.

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-64, 3-75, 4-155, 5-157, 6-158, 7-163, 8-166, 9-194.

Andhra bowling: Nitish Kumar 5-0-33-0. Lalith Mohan 10-0-39-0, Sasikanth 17.2-1-47-4, Shoaib Md. Khan 23-1-69-6, Vihari 1-0-5-0.

Incisive spell: Sasikanth struck at crucial junctures while picking up four wickets. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

RANJI TROPHY SCORES (ROUND TWO, DAY FOUR)

Elite: Group-A: At Kolkata: Bengal 310 & 291/5 decl. vs. Himachal Pradesh 130 & 348/4 in 93 overs (Prashant Chopra 109, Ankit Kalsi 82); **Points: Bengal 3 (9), HP 1 (8)**.
At Dehradun: Odisha 213 & 165 in 57.5 overs (Anurag Sarangi 93, Abhay Negi 5/33) lost to Uttarakhand 477; **Uttarakhand 7 (13), Odisha 0 (1).**
At Vadodara: Baroda 615 vs. Haryana 278 & 404/9 in 137.3 overs (Yuvraj Singh 94, Shivam Chauhan 60, Jayant Yadav 61); **Baroda 3 (6), Haryana 1 (1).**
Group-B: At Guwahati: Delhi 439 & 292/1 in 61.1 overs (Dhruv Shorey 150 n.o., Anuj Rawat 109) vs. Assam 443/9 decl. in 129.3 overs (Mukhtar Hussain 48, Harshit Rana 4/94); **Assam 3 (4), Delhi 1 (1).**
At Rajkot: Maharashtra 493 vs. Saurashtra 497/7 in 130.3 overs (Samarth Vyas 93, Arpit Vasavada 127 n.o.); **Saurashtra 3 (6), Maharashtra 1 (7).**
At Coimbatore: Andhra 297 & 162/5 in 53 overs (Ricky Bhui 62 batting) bt Tamil Nadu (TN) 345 & 194 in 56.2 overs (Baba Indrajith 43, Washington Sundar 65, K.V. Sasikanth 4/47, Shoaib Md. Khan 6/69); **Andhra 6 (6), TN 0 (3).**
Group-C: At Jamshedpur: Jharkhand 386 & 212/3 decl. in 55 overs (Kumar Deobrat 72, Virat Singh 100 n.o.) vs. Goa 362 & 61/3 in 23 overs; **Jharkhand 3 (3), Goa 1 (4).**
At Delhi: Services 213 & 221 in 61.2 overs (Rajat Paliwal 58, Ajay Mandal 5/38) lost to Chhattisgarh 389 & 46/0 in 12.1 overs; **Chhattisgarh 7 (13), Services 0 (1).**
At Jaipur: Rajasthan 337 & 363/8 decl. in 88 overs (Deepak Hooda 155 n.o., Kunal Singh Rathore 75) vs. Kerala 306 & 299/8 in 68 overs (Ponnan Rahul 64, Sanju Samson 69, Sachin Baby 81 n.o.); **Rajasthan 3 (4), Kerala 1 (7).**
Group-D: At Nagpur: Vidarbha 264 & 379/8 decl. in 82 overs (Ganesh Satish 151 n.o.) bt Tripura 299 & 124 in 51.2 overs (Akshay Wakhare 4/50); **Vidarbha 6 (12), Tripura 0 (3).**
At Delhi: Railways 102 in 46.3 overs (Siddarth Kaul 5/37, Gurnoor Brar 4/16) & 49/0 in 9 overs vs. Punjab 152/6 decl. in 38 overs (Naman Dhir 57); **Punjab 3 (6), Railways 1 (1).**
Plate: At Ahmedabad: Bihar 311 & 287/9 decl. in 81 overs (Veer Pratap Singh 63 n.o.) vs. Manipur 296 & 248/8 in 74 overs (Karnajit Yumnam 43, Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 79 n.o., Bikash Singh 47, Ashutosh Aman 4/61); **Bihar 3 (10), Manipur 1 (1).**

INBRIEF

Rohit Rajpal retained as Davis Cup captain

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has retained Rohit Rajpal as the captain of the Davis Cup team for the World Group play-off tie against Denmark to be played on indoor hard court at the Royal Stage, Hillerod in Denmark, on February 3 and 4. The 51-year-old has many roles to play, as the AITA Treasurer has recently also been elected as a member of the Executive Council of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). India holds a 2-1 win-loss record against Denmark. In the last tie, India beat Denmark 4-0 at the Delhi Gymkhana Club on grass in March this year. India had won 3-2 in 1984, and the only loss was in 1927.

IOC raises prospect of boxing being pulled from Paris Games

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Thursday raised the possibility of boxing being excluded from the 2024 Paris Games, saying its Russian-led world body showed it had "no real interest" in the sport or its athletes. The International Boxing Association (IBA) was stripped of involvement in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and boxing is not on the initial programme for the 2028 Los Angeles Games, pending reforms demanded by the IOC.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 8.30 a.m.
Bangladesh vs India: 2nd Test, day 3, Sony Ten Sports 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9 a.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5.30 & 7.30 p.m.

Lovlina, Alfiya and Kalaivani register facile victories

Sports Bureau

Lovlina Borgohain had a cakewalk against Puja Nayak in a 75kg pre-quarterfinal bout of the National women's boxing championship in Bhopal on Friday.

Important results:
48kg: Rajni Singh (UP) bt Suvidha Bhagat (Pun) 5-0, S.Kalaivani (TN) bt Swati Arya (Raj) 5-0; **50kg:** Shvinder Kaur Sidhu (AIP) bt Isha Thakur (HP) 5-0, Anamika (RSPB) bt Komal (Pun) 4-0, Kalpana (Har) bt Janhavi Waghmare (Mah) 5-0; **52kg:** Radha Patidar (MP) bt Suman Yadav (Goa) 4-3, Rosemary Chanu (Man) bt Poonam (Raj) 5-2, Sakshi Chaudhary (SSCB) bt S.Deepa (TN) RSC-R1; **54kg:** Shiksha (RSPB) bt Preeti (Har) 4-1, Divya Pawar (MP) bt Savita (AIP) 5-0; **57kg:** Manisha (Har) bt Mudrika Guruani (Utk) 5-0, Sonia Lather (RSPB) bt Divyani (Kar) w/o., Aroti Doley (Asm) bt Aarti Mehra (Chd) 5-0; **60kg:** Preeti (Nag) bt Muskan (UP) 5-0, Kirti (Har) bt Kalpana (Raj) 5-0, Renu (Chd) bt Likitha Battini (AP) 5-0; **66kg:** Ankushita Boro (Asm) bt Sanju (Nag) RSC-R2; **70kg:** Shruti Yadav (MP) bt Ani Laasa (Nag) 5-0, Parveen Hooda (AIP) bt Shirisha Jampula (Goa) RSC-R3; **70kg:** Astha Pahwa (UP) bt Sohini (Chd) 5-0; **75kg:** Kriti Subba (Ben) bt Nandini Raghav (Har) 4-1, Lovlina Borgohain (Asm) bt Puja Nayak (Odi) RSC-R1; **81kg:** Babita Basera (Utk) bt Vintee (MP) 4-1, Anupama (RSPB) bt Anu Rani (Chd) 5-0; **+81kg:** Alfiya Pathan (Mah) bt Anaswara PM (Ker) 5-0.

Focused: Kalaivani was too good for Swati Arya. A.M. FARUQUI

Visakh, Shyam Sundar held as underdogs make Grandmasters struggle

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

The growing depth of Indian chess made its presence felt as some Grandmasters, with ratings ranging from fifth seed N.R. Visakh's 2544 to 45th-ranked Sriram Jha's 2337, faced varying degrees of difficulty before being held in the second round of the National chess championship here.

Though top seed S.P. Sethuraman headed a pack of 32 players who posted their second successive victory, not all pre-match favourites stayed undefeated.

International Master Arghyadip Das, rated 2438 and seeded 21, crashed to a shock loss with white pieces to J. Akshit Kumar, rated a modest 2158, to be the day's biggest casualty.

Not good enough

With several underdogs playing way above their suggested rating strength to come out undefeated, some better known names could not join the leaders.

Bharat Reddy, rated 2243, held Visakh, Mohamed Anees proved equal to sixth seed M. Shyam Sundar, as did S. Dhananjay against another GM Swapnil Dhopade.

Similarly, Sandipan Chanda and fellow-GM M. R. Venkatesh split the points against lowly-rated Shreyansh Daklia (2165) and Kartavya Anadkat (2147).

Y. Grahesh forced GM R. R. Laxman to a draw. Two other GMs, Deepan Chakravarthy and Sriram Jha continued to search for their first victory.

Leading results: Second round: V. Varun (1) lost to S.P. Sethuraman (2); P. Saravana Krishnan (1) lost to Abhijeet Gupta (2); Leon Mendonca (2) bt Praloy Sahoo (1); Bharat Reddy (1.5) drew with N. R. Visakh (1.5); M. Shyam Sundar (1.5) drew with Mohammed Anees (1.5); S. Dhananjay (1.5) drew with Swapnil Dhopade (1.5); Shreyansh Daklia (1.5) drew with Sandipan Chanda (1.5); Kartavya Anadkat (1.5) drew with M. R. Venkatesh (1.5); Arghyadip Das (1) lost to J. Akshit Kumar (2); Kaivalya Nagare (1.5) drew with L. R. Srihari (1.5); Anuj Shrivatri (1.5) drew with Gaurang Bagwe (1.5); R. R. Laxman (1.5) drew with Y. Grahesh (1.5); Tapan Badamundi (1) drew with Sriram Jha (1).

Evaldo lives up to the billing in the Ashoka Chakra Cup

BENGALURU: Prasanna Kumar-trained Evaldo (Akshay Kumar up) won the Ashoka Chakra Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Friday (Dec 23). The winner is owned by Mr. K. Manoj Kumar & Mrs. Gaja Manoj.

1. YAMUNA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **SPIRIT DANCER** (Darshan) 1, Phoenix Surprise (B. Dharshan) 2, Perfect Halo (L.A. Rozario) 3 and War Trail (B.L. Paswan) 4. 3/4, 3-3/4 and 1. 1m, 15.28s. ₹488 (w), 70, 15 and 20 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 41, FP: 8,120, Q: 1,592, Trinella: 51,605, Exacta: 45,830 and 19,641. Favourite: War Trail. Owner: Mr. M.A.M Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

2. KISAN DIVAS PLATE (DIV. III), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **GALLOPING AHEAD** (Shreyas S) 1, Capriati (Antony) 2, Listen To Me (Trevor) 3 and George Everest (Zervan) 4. 4, Lnk and 3. 1m 27.98s. ₹104 (w), 26, 13 and 10 (p), SHP: 24, THP: 45, FP: 461, Q: 214, Trinella: 530 and 178, Exacta: 5,069 and 4,344. Favourite: Listen To Me. Owners: Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP and Mr. S.R. Sanas. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

3. KRISHNA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: **GOLDEN TIME** (G. Vivek) 1, Dr Logan (Vaibhav) 2, Embosom (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Silver Swift (R. Ajinkya) 4. 6-3/4, 3/4 and 5-3/4. 1m, 26.61s. ₹13 (w), 10, 21 and 19 (p), SHP: 55, THP: 43, FP: 120, Q: 98, Trinella: 412 and 142, Exacta: 2,969 and 1,339. Favourite: Golden Time. Owner: Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

4. KISAN DIVAS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **KING OF WAR** (G. Vivek) 1. Opus One (L.A. Rozario) 2, Limited Edition (Nazerul) 3 and Alcides Synergy (A. Imran) 4. 1-1/4, Nk and Nk. 1m, 26.79s. ₹36 (w), 14, 30 and 57 (p), SHP: 79, THP: 126, FP: 338, Q: 270, Trinella: 8,369 and 3,587, Exacta: 25,721 and 3,674. Favourite: Alcides Synergy. Owner: Mrs. Shruthiba L. Gowda. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

5. ABBEY FALLS PLATE (1,200m), maiden 2-y-o only, (Terms): **CZAR** (Antony) 1, Fort Nelson (Srinath) 2, Fearless Joey (Vinod Shinde) 3 and True Faith (Zervan) 4. Not run: Vivaldo. Nose, 5 and 1/2. 1m, 14.13s. ₹39 (w), 11 and 29 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 59, FP: 234, Q: 84, Trinella: 1,191 and 562, Exacta: 3,949 and 1,375. Favourite: Julio. Owners: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep by. Mr. Rajendran & United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

6. KRISHNA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: **FOUR WHEEL DRIVE** (A. Imran) 1, Classic Charm (I. Chisty) 2. Katana (Srinath) 3 and The Strength (Sai Kiran) 4. 1-3/4, 3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 27.00s. ₹18 (w), 13, 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 57, THP: 52, FP: 153, Q: 85, Trinella: 379 and 70, Exacta: 1,020 and 527. Favourite: Four Wheel Drive. Owners: Mr. Akshay Karan, Mr. Syed Nawaz Hussain & Mr. V. Krishna Das. Trainer: S. Dominic.

7. Y.S. SURENDER MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65: **COOL RIDER** (Srinath) 1, Benediction (Shreyas S) 2, Devils Magic (Indrajeet S) 3 and Capable (P. Siddaraju) 4. 1/2, 3-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 13.50s. ₹16 (w), 10, 52 and 31 (p), SHP: 143, THP: 82, FP: 403, Q: 388, Trinella: 3,006 and 1,054, Exacta: 73,700 and 31,585, Favourite: Cool Rider. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, Mrs. Rohini Thupal, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & Mr. Anjan Kumar Rangaraj and Mr. Roopesh S. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

8. ASHOKA CHAKRA CUP (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, (Terms): **EVALDO** (Akshay K) 1, Kensington (Antony) 2, Automatic (Trevor) 3 and Shubankar (Srinath) 4. 3/4, 7-1/4 and Lnk. 1m, 51.16s. ₹17 (w), 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 29, FP: 44, Q: 30, Trinella: 49 and 22, Exacta: 73 and 50. Favourite: Evaldo. Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar & Mrs. Gaja Manoj. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

9. KISAN DIVAS PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **BALOR** (R. Ajinkya) 1, Czarevitch (Darshan) 2, Sociable (Trevor) 3 and Nikolina (Antony) 4. 1/2, 1-3/4 and Nk. 1m, 26.40s. ₹26 (w), 13, 20 and 14 (p), SHP: 55, THP: 43, FP: 171, Q: 132, Trinella: 437, Exacta: 1,150 and 404. Favourite: Balor. Owner: Mr. Gautam Maini. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

10. YAMUNA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **ACTIVATED** (L.A. Rozario) 1, Air Display (Likith Appu) 2, Dallas Drifter (Tousif) 3 and Elite Agent (Kiran Rai) 4. 1-3/4, 3 and 1. 1m, 15.58s. ₹20 (w), 13, 13 and 18 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 43, FP: 91, Q: 54, Trinella: 319 and 220, Exacta: 845 and 399. Favourite: Activated. Owner: Mr. K. Kamesh. Trainer: Warren Singh.

Jackpot: ₹478 (179 tkts.); Runner-up: 72 (505 tkts.); Treble (i): 276 (28 tkts.); (ii): 215 (35 tkts.); (iii): 159 (77 tkts.).

Super Angel for feature

HYDERABAD: The six-year-old mare Super Angel has an edge over her rivals in the Man Of The Match Plate, the main event of Saturday's (Dec. 24) races here.

1 ARISTOCRAT PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.45 p.m.: 1. Avancia (2) Deepak Singh 60, 2. My Master (4) Afroz Khan 55, 3. Eastern Blaze (8) Gaurav Singh 54, 4. Life's Living (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 53.5, 5. Big Boy (3) B. Nikhil 53, 6. Fresh Hope (1) Surya Prakash 52.5, 7. Samrat (5) Mohit Singh 52.5 and 8. Varenna (6) Akshay Kumar 52.5.
1. AVANCIA, 2. VARENNA, 3. LIFE'S LIVING

2 COMMON LAND PLATE (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 2-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.15: 1. Flying Hooves (2) Aneel 56, 2. Lucky Zone (1) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 3. Only The Brave (3) Koushik 56, 4. Thunder Knight (7) B.R. Kumar 56, 5. Alexina (6) Santosh Raj 54.5, 6. Miss Maya (8) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 7. Nkalanzinzi (4) A.A. Vikrant 54.5 and 8. Proud Girl (5) B. Nikhil 54.5.
1. MISS MAYA, 2. LUCKY ZONE, 3. NKALANZINZI

3 TRADE FAIR PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.45: 1. Unsung Hero (4) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Carlisle (6) Afroz Khan 58.5, 3. Dyanoosh (10) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56.5, 4. Ok Boss (9) Md. Ismail 55.5, 5. Mind Reader (3) R.S. Jodha 55, 6. Stag's Leap (5) A.A. Vikrant 55, 7. Four One Four (1) Aneel 54.5, 8. All Time Legend (7) G. Naresh 53.5, 9. Classy Dame (2) Md. Ekram Alam 53.5 and 10. Costello (8) Sonu Kumar 53.5.
1. UNSUNG HERO, 2. CARLISLE, 3. STAG'S LEAP

4 HUSSAIN SAGAR CUP (2,000m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.15: 1. Francis Bacon (6) Kuldeep S 61, 2. Exclusive Spark (10) Mohit Singh 60, 3. Team Player (2) Afroz Khan 58.5, 4. Hero Of The East (8) Akshay Kumar 57, 5. Sweet Whisper (3) Gaurav Singh 55.5, 6. Forever Bond (1) Surya Prakash 55, 7. Akash (4) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. My Way Or Highway (5) Abhay Singh 52.5, 9. China Town (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 50.5 and 10. Black Opal (7) Santosh Raj 50.
1. EXCLUSIVE SPARK, 2. FRANCIS BACON, 3. HERO OF THE EAST

5 MAN OF THE MATCH PLATE (1,600m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3.45: 1. Super Angel (5) Abhay Singh 60, 2. Kesariya Balam (2) G. Naresh 58, 3. Mark My Day (6) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 4. Royal Grace (3) Afroz Khan 54.5, 5. Akido (4) Gaurav Singh 54 and 6. Lifes Song (1) Akshay Kumar 54.
1. SUPER ANGEL, 2. LIFES SONG

6 WANAPARTHY CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.15: 1. Angelita (2) B. Nikhil 60, 2. Miss Little Angel (6) B.R. Kumar 60, 3. General Atlantic (7) Mukesh Kumar 57, 4. Pleroma (1) Akshay Kumar 56.5, 5. Crimson Rose (8) Abhay Singh 55.5, 6. Fly Tothe Stars (3) Afroz Khan 55.5, 7. Only My Way (5) Aneel 55.5 and 8. Thanks (4) Kuldeep S 55.
1. THANKS, 2. PLEROMA, 3. GENERAL ATLANTIC

7 ARISTOCRAT PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.45: 1. London Bell (7) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Milton Keynes (4) Afroz Khan 58.5, 3. Tantalising Star (3) Surya Prakash 58, 4. Apex Star (1) A.A. Vikrant 57, 5. Stoic Hero (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57, 6. Inderdhanush (6) Abhay Singh 56.5, 7. Track Blazer (5) Santosh Raj 56.5 and 8. Saint Emilion (8) Gaurav Singh 56.
1. MILTON KEYNES, 2. STOIC HERO, 3. TRACK BLAZER
Day's Best: **UNSUNG HERO**
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: All races.

Sangeeta beats Sumitra to retain the 62kg crown

Y.B. Sarangi
VISAKHAPATNAM

Guided by World and Olympic medallist husband Bajrang Punia, Sangeeta Phogat warded off Sumitra's challenge to retain the women's 62kg crown on the concluding day of the National wrestling championships at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium here on Friday.

One of the Phogat sisters, Sangeeta, who competed in her first event after suffering an ACL injury about six months ago, improved her rhythm with each bout and kept her best for the final.

Sangeeta grabbed a two-point lead before Sumitra levelled the scores in the first period. Sangeeta employed a right leg attack, resulting in a takedown, to regain her lead. A swift and spectacular counterattack bolstered her lead (6-2). She used her power to blunt Sumitra's last-ditch effort and won the contest 8-2.

Proud moment: Sangeeta celebrates after winning the gold medal with husband Bajrang.K.R. DEEPAK

"I competed last in the Commonwealth Games trials. I was into rehab, during which Bajrang's positive support helped me. I have to guard against injuries and improve my game ahead of come important events, including the Olympics," said Sangeeta.

The medalists: 53kg: 1. Sushma Shokeen (Del), 2. Pooja Jat (MP), 3. Swati (Mah), Sheetal Tomar (UP); **57kg:** 1. Rajani (RSPB), 2. Sito (Har), 3. Rajani (Del), Sonali (Mah); **59kg:** 1. Sarita Mor (RSPB), 2. Simran (Del), 3. Bhagyashree (Mah), Pooja Yadav (UP); **62kg:** 1. Sangeeta Phogat (RSPB), 2. Sumitra (Del), 3. Sonika (HP), Vaishnavi (Mah); **65kg:** 1. Bhateri (SSCB), 2. Monia (RSPB), 3. Monika (Raj), Jaspreet Kaur (Pun); **68kg:** 1. Radhika (Har), 2. Pratiksha (Mah), 3. Anu (Raj), Nisha Dahiya (RSPB); **72kg:** 1. Ritika (Har), 2. Nikki (RSPB), 3. Rajani (UP), N.Tombi Devi (Man); **76kg:** 1. Kiran (RSPB), 2. Bipasha (Del), 3. Rani (HP), Sudesh Kumari (Har).

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INBRIEF

England's World Cup-winner Cohen passes away, aged 83

George Cohen, the right-back in England's 1966 football World Cup-winning team, passed away aged 83, his former club Fulham announced on Friday. The 37 times capped defender played every minute of the victorious campaign on home soil that culminated in a 4-2 extra-time win over the then West Germany to give England its first – and so far only – World Cup title.

Goalkeeper Onana ends career with Cameroon

Cameroon goalkeeper Andre Onana ended his career with the National team on Friday, one month after the 26-year-old player was sent home from the World Cup in a dispute with coach Rigobert Song. The Inter Milan player posted a statement on his twitter account saying "my story with the Cameroonian national team has come to an end". The last of Onana's 34 international games was the 1-0 loss to Switzerland on November 24 at the World Cup in Qatar. Onana later referred to his disagreement with Song over team tactics that led to him being dropped for the next game.

Sania to pair up with Danilina for Australian Open 2023

Sania Mirza will pair up with Kazakhstan's World No. 11 Anna Danilina to compete at the Australian Open 2023, according to her father and coach Imran Mirza. However, Sania's participation in the Australian Open's mixed doubles competition has not yet been confirmed.

Sania, ranked 25 in the WTA doubles rankings, had intended to give up playing competitive tennis after the 2022 season, but later changed her mind. She is currently competing in the World Tennis League in Dubai.

England recalls Broad for Test series in New Zealand

Experienced pacer returns after missing the recent 3-0 series win in Pakistan; Rising star 18-year-old leg-spinner Rehan fails to make it to the squad

CRICKET

Associated Press
LONDON

Experienced bowler Stuart Broad has been recalled to England's squad for the two-Test series in New Zealand while rising star Rehan Ahmed will not make the trip.

The 36-year-old Broad is back after missing the recent 3-0 Test series sweep in Pakistan for the birth of his first child.

The first Test begins on February 16 at Mount Maunganui.

Rehan became the country's youngest ever men's Test cricketer when the 18-year-old leg-spinner lined up against Pakistan in Karachi last week and took a decisive five-wicket haul.

The Test matches in New Zealand are not likely to favor spin and, with Jack Leach retaining his status as first-choice, Rehan did not make the 15-man squad with England also taking a careful approach over his development.

Ready to deliver: Broad's presence will replenish England's bowling stocks. FILE PHOTO

Mark Wood, who impressed against Pakistan after elbow surgery earlier this year, will be rested from all cricket in a bid to protect him from further injury ahead of the Ashes.

England is also being careful with Jofra Archer, who was selected for January's ODI trip to South Africa but will wait longer to return to Test cricket after a long spell on the sidelines.

Along with Broad, the bowling stocks are replenished by fast bowlers Matthew Potts and Olly Stone. Potts started his Test career this summer by taking 20 wickets at an average of 28 in five appearances.

Three other players who took part in England's first Test matches trip to Pakistan in 17 years were not included. Liam Livingstone was injured on his debut in Rawalpindi, while opener Keaton Jennings and Jamie Overton, who did not feature in the three-match series, drop out.

The squad: Ben Stokes (Capt.), James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ben Foakes, Will Jacks, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root and Olly Stone.

Lanning back to lead Australian women after indefinite break

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Lanning. FILE PHOTO

Skipper Meg Lanning was Friday included in the Australian women's one-day squad to face Pakistan, ending an indefinite months-long break and allaying fears that she had played her last international. The record-breaking 30-year-old announced she was stepping away from the game in August after leading her all-conquering team to CWG gold.

She said at the time it was to "focus on myself" after a hectic string of successes for Australia and Lanning that included a World Cup triumph.

It was unclear whether she would return, but national selector Shawn Flegler said Friday that Lanning was "all in" to take on Pakistan at home next month. "We had always hoped she would come back and play, and a great story really," he added.

"Obviously, she's taken this time to work out what's really important for her, things she needs to do to manage herself. "Just really pleased she's refreshed, happy and knows what she wants to do."

Debuting at 18, Lanning's skill with the bat shattered records from early on, holding the mark for the most centuries in women's ODIs. Becoming Australia's youngest-ever skipper at 21, she has led the side since.

Australia faces Pakistan in three ODIs from January 16 in Brisbane and Sydney with Alyssa Healy ruled out with a calf injury.

Hyderabad posts facile win over Bengaluru, goes top

ISL-9

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Hyderabad FC (HFC) outplayed Bengaluru FC (BFC) 3-0 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday to go to the top of the Indian Super League (ISL) table.

HFC striker Ogbeche had a great outing, and was involved in the first two goals. After a dull opening session, HFC went ahead through a clever free-kick routine.

Instead of taking a shot at goal, Halicharan Narzary provided a quick pass to a darting Ogbeche. From just outside the box, the former Paris Saint-Germain player struck it sweetly with his right foot to defeat BFC goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh.

HFC doubled its lead a minute before half-time. Narzary floated a cross into the danger zone, allowing Ogbeche to rise high for a header. BFC defender Sandesh Jhingan attempted to clear it off the line, but could only deflect it in.

In the 90th minute, the small home crowd was completely silenced when an unmarked Joel Chianese tapped in a pass from Abdul Rabeeh.

BFC dominated possession, but barely created chances. Simon Grayson's men looked good in attack on just the one occasion, when Sunil Chhetri took a shot from close range. HFC goalkeeper Gurmeet, however, closed the gap at the far post to make the save.

It was yet another disappointing day for BFC, which fell to a seventh defeat in 11 matches.

HFC (25 points) replaced Mumbai City (24 points) on top of the pile. Mumbai City, however, has a match in hand.

The result:
Hyderabad FC 3 (Bartholomew Ogbeche 26, Sandesh Jhingan-og 44, Joel Chianese 90) bt Bengaluru FC 0.

Happy bunch: HFC's star player Ogbeche, second from left, played a stellar role. K. MURALI KUMAR